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Japan

Residents Protest U.S. Exercises on Okinawa

OW2212053392 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 17 Dec 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] Kin-cho—On 16 December, U.S. Marine Corps [USMC] troops in Okinawa completed their live-fire exercise, which began on 15 December, at the Camp Hansen training area in the township of Kin. The USMC troops ended their exercise—the 13th such exercise conducted this year—after firing 787 shots Wednesday over Prefectural Route 104. This was a record number of shells fired in one day since the reversion of Okinawa to Japan. A total of 1,525 live shells fired from 155-mm and 105-mm howitzers battered the Onna hills.

The USMC forces have fired over 6,000 live shells in the 13 exercises held this year—the largest number since the prefectural government began compiling statistics on 30 March 1973. Among local Kin-cho residents, angry voices were raised, saying: "Is the U.S. military trying to destroy our hills? We cannot allow them to conduct more anachronistic exercises."

Wednesday's firing exercise was conducted from 0810 to 1636. More than six artillery guns set up in the four field emplacements located in Nakagawa-ku, Kin-cho, spit fire simultaneously. For the whole day, the artillery guns fired at short intervals of about 5 minutes, each time shooting about 10 shots in rapid succession.

Local residents were uneasy as they witnessed the strange scene that almost depicted a battlefield—as helicopters frequently flew over outlying residential areas with soldiers hanging in mid-air from ropes. Some residents covered ears with their hands at the loud noise.

Kin-cho Mayor Kikuo Nakama sternly protested: "I cannot help but say that such an intense exercise is abnormal. The situation is only worsening. A national tree-planting festive event is set to be held here in Okinawa next year, but our hills are being destroyed. I cannot understand the policies of the government and the U.S. Forces."

Okinawa Plans To Send Delegates To Meet Clinton

OW2112030692 Naha NHK Television in Japanese 0315 GMT 17 Dec 92

[From "Local NHK News" program]

[Text] Mr. Takayama, director of the Okinawa Prefecture Governor's Executive Office, today talked about the issue of U.S. military bases on Okinawa, and said that the prefectural government is now thinking about sending Governor Ota and mayors of areas concerned to the United States to renew requests relating to the bases as soon as Mr. Clinton comes into office. The director added that he is hoping the delegation will be a large interprefectural group that includes the participation by both conservative and reformist members of the prefectural assembly. He made these remarks at a session of the U.S. Military Base Special Committee of the Prefectural Assembly today.

At the assembly's U.S. Military Base Special Committee session, which began at 1000 today, Yoshihide Isa of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] noted that military exercises by the U.S. Forces on Okinawa have increased over the past year, and he asked the government what specific actions it will take regarding this situation.

In response, Mr. Takayama, director of the Governor's Executive Office, said that the prefectural government is thinking about sending a delegation led by Governor Ota to the United States to request immediate suspension of the exercises as well as prompt return of the military bases to Okinawans—as soon as the Clinton government is inaugurated on 20 January 1993.

When a final decision is made to send the delegation, he said it would include participation by mayors of the areas concerned. He added that he hopes the delegation will be a large delegation that includes all groups—conservative and reformist—of prefectural assembly members, including the assembly speaker.

Masaru Koki of the Kensei Club asked the government whether the latter should prepare land site utilization plans that take into account the views of landowners. Mr. Takayama replied that the prefectural government is proceeding with work to complete the plans before the end of this year and then will finalize them, following adjustments based on views of local governments and the landowners concerned.

Mr. Takayma also told the committee that a liaison meeting of representatives of the U.S. Forces on Okinawa, the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau, and the prefectural government will be held on 21 December, and that problems of military aircraft noise and red dirt coming out of the bases will be discussed. He said he wants to discuss in depth how these problems can be alleviated.

Joint Use of Yaedake Station Planned With U.S.

OW2312055992 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 20 Dec 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] Tokyo—It was disclosed on 19 December that the U.S. Forces Yaedake Communications Station, which stretches over Nago City and Motobu, has been listed as one of the proposed sites for setting up a relay station for the Maritime Self Defense Forces' Anti-Submarine Warfare Operations Center (ASWOC), and that the Defense Facilities Administration Agency [DFAA] is considering plans on its joint use with the U.S. military. While saying that "we have not yet decided whether to select Yaedake," the DFAA pointed out that "a relay station is necessary to link ASWOC with transmission stations."

Thus, it is believed that the Yaedake communications station is a very likely candidate.

The relay station is a communications facility which will link the transmission station, set to be constructed in Toyohara-ku, Motobu-cho, the reception station in Iji, Kunigami-son, and the Self Defense Forces [SDF] ASWOC at Naha Air Base. Steel towers and antennae will have to be erected.

On 15 May 1992, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa to Japan, it was agreed at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee meeting that parts of the Yaedake Communications Station would be returned to Japan. Processing has been in progress concerning this event. If plans are finalized to set up the relay station at Yaedake, the SDF will share the base with U.S. Forces through joint-use (in accordance with Article 2, Section 4B of the Status of Forces Agreement). In Okinawa, there are currently seven military facilities covering an area of 1,090 hectares, under joint-use between the U.S. Forces and the SDF.

The Yaedake Communications Station is a U.S. Air Force [USAF] facility with an area of 23 hectares. It serves as a key communications center between Okinawa and mainland Japan, linking such bases as Yokota Air Base, which houses the U.S. 5th Air Force Headquarters; Zama Army Base, which houses the U.S. Army Japan Headquarters; and USAF Kadena Air Base.

At the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee meeting, it was decided that "as soon as final adjustments are made, parts of the base will be returned to Japan." The area under consideration for joint-use in setting up the relay station is a portion covering about 12 hectares, excluding the 11 hectares that includes the northern and southern sections of the base, which the U.S. side has agreed to return.

Concerning the joint-use of the Yaedake Communications Station, the DFAA considers that "it is one of the proposed sites, but this decision has not been finalized." The Agency says that it is still uncertain as to whether due process will be taken to put the issue on the table at the Japan-U.S. Joint Committee meetings.

Currently, the communications station is being jointly used by the Okinawa Electric Power Company for its electric power facilities, the Transportation Ministry's Civil Aviation Bureau for its air route monitoring radar, and the Okinawa Prefectural Water Bureau for its radio relay station.

As the U.S. Forces have been proceeding with the installation of optical fiber cables to replace the existing facilities, there were expectations for a total return of the base, with the termination of the functions of the communications station. However, it may be that the SDF will use the station as a new base after U.S. Forces turn it over to Japan.

Tokyo Ordered To Pay Damages in U.S. Jet Case

OW2112045992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0406 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Yokohama, Dec. 21 KYODO—The government was ordered Monday to pay about 110 million yen in damages to 133 residents near U.S. Naval Air Station Atsugi in Kanagawa Prefecture for their suffering caused by intense aircraft noise.

In handing down the ruling, however, the Yokohama District Court rejected demands from a group of 156 plaintiffs to halt night flights at the airfield west of Tokyo.

The residents filed the suit against the government in October 1984, claiming they had been suffering from aircraft noise since the U.S. Carrier Midway bagan using Yokosuka as its home port in 1973 and its planes were assigned to Atsugi.

The plaintiffs live in the cities of Yamato, Ayase, Zama, Ebina, Sagamihara and Fujisawa in central Kanagawa. They are the second group of local residents to seek a halt to night flights at the airfield.

In the suit, they sought a halt to take-offs and landings between 8 P.M. and 8 A.M. and about 970 million yen in damages.

Presiding Judge Jukichi Sakuma said the government must pay 110 million yen in damages to the residents, who, he said have suffered from intolerable noise for the past 10 years.

But he dismissed a demand by the plaintiffs for an injunction against night flights.

Sakuma ruled that his court cannot order a suspension of flights of U.S. military aircraft because of Japan's obligations under the Japan-U.S. mutual security arrangements. He also noted that the plaintiffs' request for a similar measure against the planes of Japan's Air Self-Defense Force lacks evidence to support their claim about suffering.

He also turned down a call for compensation for future damages, citing anticipated changes in the situation surrounding the air base.

Shigeo Kasama, the leader of the plaintiffs' group, said he was caught by surprise when the court excluded some of the plaintiffs from the damages payment order.

Shigenobu Ohara of the Defense Facilities Administration Agency, commenting on the ruling, said it is regrettable the government cannot win the court's understanding about its stance on the case.

Dejected by the court's refusal to order a halt to night flights, plaintiff Tokuji Yoshioka said, "I'm not happy. It is natural for the government to pay money in damages. All we have sought is the halt (to night flights at the air base)."

Kanagawa Governor Kazuji Nagasu echoed that sentiment, saying, "It is extremely regrettable that no progress has been made to get rid of the noise."

The former Imperial Japanese Navy opened the 5.1-million-square-meter air base stretching over Yamato and Ayase before World War II.

The U.S. Army took it over in 1945, and the base now is used jointly by the U.S. Navy and Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force.

Critics: No Need for AWACS Jets From U.S.

OW2112023492 Tokyo KYODO in English 2349 GMT 20 Dec 92

["News Focus" feature by Narito Ohta; first in four-part series on the "arms race in Asia": "Critics Say AWACS May Be Used in Peacekeeping Missions"]

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Many critics say Japan has no need for the four reconnaissance jets it is buying from the United States and the government may have to find ways to use the jets in such activities as U.N. peacekeeping operations.

The breakup of the Soviet Union and the weakened Russian military mean Japan does not need the Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) jets to keep track of its large neighbor, the critics say.

"The expensive high-performance planes will be useless as the former Soviet Union ceased to be a potential threat to security in the Far East," defense expert Osamu Inagaki said.

The Security Council of Japan, chaired by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, gave a green light to the purchase of two AWACS jet planes in fiscal 1993, which begins on April 1, 1993, from the United States.

Japan plans to buy two more AWACS in fiscal 1994 in line with a five-year defense buildup program, which began in fiscal 1991.

The AWACS, called a flying headquarters, can fly about 11 hours without refueling, detect low-flying aircraft and small missiles, and send instructions to allied jets and naval vessels.

A rotating radar antenna on top of the modified Boeing 767 passenger plane makes it possible to identify about 600 objects on the ground within a radius of 800 kilometers, from nine kilometers in the air.

The Defense Agency, which initially was reluctant to buy the AWACS mainly because of the high price tag, says they are necessary to secure Japan's 1,600-kilometer sea-lanes of communication in the west Pacific. Each jet will cost about 58 billion yen.

"Japan, which depends heavily on imports through potentially vulnerable waterways, has to strengthen its surveillance capabilities," a senior Defense Agency official said.

The official said on condition of anonymity, "a revamped Russian Far East military presence remains a major source of concern for Japan. Russia's strategy in the region is swinging from quantity to quality."

The Russian Far East still has dozens of the nation's strategic missiles, 36 of some 160 Army divisions, about 70 of 230 major surface combat ships, 90 of 270 submarines and 1,860 of 7,820 tactical aircraft, according to the agency.

The defense white paper for fiscal 1992 notes, "In view of the small and limited industrial capacity in the region, the military forces are enormous and exceed the bounds of defense requirements."

What is most important, the Defense Agency official stressed, is there is no indication that Russia is carrying out its promise to reduce its forces on three islands—Etorofu, Kunashiri and Shikotan—out of the four islands, just off Hokkaido, under a protracted bilateral territorial dispute.

Russia considers the islands "an important advance base for survivability of Delta III-class" submarines and other nuclear-armed submarines in the Okhotsk Sea and critical to its access to the open Pacific, he said.

In questioning the reasons for the AWACS purchase, Inagaki points out that Russian planes and ships are reducing operations around Japan chiefly because of shortages of parts and fuel.

"Russian fighter jets and submarines are operational only by scavenging parts from older ones. The situation has undergone a dramatic change and is likely to be made worse in the foreseeable future," the 55-year-old expert on defense in Asia said.

Under the previous midterm buildup program, which ended in fiscal 1990, Japan bought 200 F-15 fighter jets and 100 P-3C antisubmarine patrol aircraft.

To secure Japan's sea-lanes, the country needs 75 antisubmarine ships, 25 submarines, 125 P-3Cs and 100 F-15s, according to a U.S. estimate.

"Without the AWACS, Japan has already been the biggest military power in Asia," Inagaki says. "The number of P-3Cs is enough to secure the sea-lane, which Russia also thinks is vital to it, because about 75 percent of necessary goods for Russian residents and troops are sent via the southern sea routes."

For an early warning system, Japan has 13 E-2C Hawkeye planes, although their range is just six hours and they need 28 ground radar stations to give instructions to allied planes and ships.

Nanzan University Prof. Hisao Iwashima proposes that Japan begin studying the use of high-tech defense systems—Aegis-class cruisers, sound surveillance under the sea systems and AWACS—for peaceful purposes like rescues, monitoring terrorism and drug trafficking, and atmospheric and ocean research activities.

"The weapon systems, developed for operations on the ocean, will become useless objects as regional conflicts appear to increase in the wake of the end of the cold war between the two superpowers," Iwashima said.

Taking advantage of U.S. calls for Japan to play a more active role in international crises, the Japanese Government authorized the first overseas dispatch of Japanese ground troops since World War II after more than 100 hours of heated debate in the Diet last summer.

There now are about 600 Japanese troops serving with U.N. peacekeeping forces in Cambodia.

The peacekeeping operations have been limited to medical activities, supervising elections, distributions of emergency food and repairing damaged facilities. The Japanese troops are barred from activities with a high risk of armed conflict.

"The government's urgent need to choose its role in a 'new world order' might prefer the use of the useless expensive AWACS planes in peacekeeping operations, for example, in Cambodia, or the Spratly Islands, North and South Koreas," Inagaki said.

Panel Suggests High-Level Forum With U.S.

OW2212094692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0913 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—A private panel advising the foreign minister proposed Tuesday setting up an economic ministerial forum to discuss Japan-U.S. economic issues, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The 22-member panel on Japan-U.S. economic relations suggests in a report that the forum should replace the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks to cover not only structural problems but macroeconomic and monetary policies, trade, and farm issues among others, the officials said. The SII talks began in 1989 with the aim of scrapping structural barriers to trade between the two nations and finish next year with the expiration of a follow-up period.

The report, dubbed "The Japan-U.S. Partnership in a New Age" and submitted to Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, offers several proposals on economic relations with the next U.S. Administration of President-elect Bill Clinton. It stressed the need for Japan to take the initiative instead of adopting its traditionally passive stance so as to strengthen relations with the United States.

Among its proposals is improving Japan's trade-related legal system to cope with retaliatory measures against unfair trade, like those under Section 301 of the 1974 [as received] U.S. trade law, so as to be consistent with the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the international trade watchdog.

The report recognizes the growing friction between the two countries through economic competition and conflict as the end of cold war loosens their solidarity for security reasons. It urges both Tokyo and Washington to make concessions to further open their markets in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks with a view to maintaining a world free trade system. It cites farm and services sectors for Japan and textiles and GATT rules for the United States that need more forward-looking action.

The report also calls on the United States to make efforts to ensure the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico is not an exclusive regional bloc. It proposes making better use of meetings of leaders and financial leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers with the aim of realizing effective macroeconomic cooperation. It also suggests setting up an expanded economic forum to seek harmonization of the two nations' economic systems and a panel to settle bilateral disputes.

'Groundless' U.S. Report on WHO Election Denied

OW2212145892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1446 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—A Foreign Ministry spokesman on Tuesday categorically denied a U.S. report that Japan has used intimidating tactics in the election for the directorship of the World Health Organization (WHO). Masamichi Hanabusa said the report was "totally groundless." He said, "such inaccurate reports are embarrassing and cause a (harmful) effect."

THE NEW YORK TIMES in its Sunday edition quoted a senior U.S. official as charging that Japan has been using "intimidating tactics" in a behind-the-scenes diplomatic campaign to get Hiroshi Nakajima reelected as head of the Geneva-based U.N. agency. The ministry has asked the U.S. Government through its Tokyo embassy to look into the matter, Hanabusa said. The ministry will also lodge a protest with the editor-in-chief of the U.S. paper, he said.

The paper said the U.S. official had cited an internal State Department briefing paper which said Japan's actions "amount to a pattern of aggressive tactics, including the pursuit of votes in exchange for favors."

The election to the top WHO post is scheduled for January 20. Japan is backing Nakajima's bid to stand for a second five-year term against three other contenders, all of African nationalities.

Morita on Clinton's Adopting 'Stern' Policy

OW2212123592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1222 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Akio Morita, chairman of Sony Corp., warned Tuesday the U.S. Government under President-elect Bill Clinton will take a stern economic stance toward Japan.

Morita made the observation after returning from a visit to the United States as head of a mission sent by the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren). Morita exchanged views with U.S. lawmakers and government leaders on Japan-U.S. relations under the Clinton administration.

He predicted Japan will come under growing pressure to open its market and ease import curbs after Clinton takes office in January. Keidanren is scheduled to send a bigger mission to the United States early next year to promote private-level dialogue between the two countries. Morita said Clinton enjoys higher expections from the American people than thought in Japan and regards Japan as a major competitor with the U.S.

NTT Procurement Pact Accord Signed With U.S.

OW2212095092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0925 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Japan and the United States have agreed to extend their accord on procurement of equipment by Japan's giant domestic telecom firm Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. [NTT] for another three years, the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry announced Tuesday. The current agreement is due to expire at the end of this year.

Ministry officials said the two sides also agreed to review the arrangement when a multilateral accord is signed in the ongoing Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. The pact provides for nondiscriminatory procurement of equipment from domestic and foreign suppliers by NTT. The three-year agreement had previously been extended three times since it was originally signed in 1980.

Miyazawa, Canada's Mulroney Discuss NAFTA

OW2212040992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0240 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney agreed Tuesday that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) would avoid forming a protectionist "fortress North America," top government spokesman Yohei Kono said.

In a 10-minute telephone conversation, Miyazawa told Mulroney he is confident that Canada, the United States and Mexico will not form a protectionist trade bloc, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono said.

Mulroney agreed, tellling Miyazawa that the three countries are seeking to abolish protectionism, Kono said.

Mulroney invited Miyazawa to visit Canada and deliver a speech prior to the July summit of seven major industrialized nations in Tokyo, Kono said.

Kono said Miyazawa would give first priority to parliamentary business, but would like to visit Canada "if he has the chance."

Mulroney placed the phone call to suggest the two nations follow up on an experts' report last week on the future of bilateral relations suggesting cooperation covering global, trade, cultural and environmental issues.

The Canada-Japan Forum 2000, an advisory group to both governments, urged the two countries to work together to ensure the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial countries embrace a "core agenda" put forward by Japan and Canada on global security matters.

The group, which brought together dozens of private and public sector leaders from both countries, submitted the report to Miyazawa and Mulroney simultaneously in Tokyo and Ottawa on December 16.

Tanabe Congratulates ROK President-Elect Kim

OW1912114292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1048 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—The head of Japan's No. 1 opposition party sent a congratulatory message Saturday to South Korea's President-elect Kim Yong-sam, saying he hopes to meet him in the near future.

Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), said he expressed the hope that the new president will strive for promotion of dialogue with North Korea and for the economic development in the south.

Kim Yong-sam, candidate of the ruling party, won the elections by a comfortable margin over his main rival, opposition leader Kim Tae-chung.

Fishing Quota Agreement Reached With Russia

OW1912124992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1114 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—Japan and Russia have agreed to limit fishing quotas in their respective 200-mile economic zones at 171,000 tons each next year, the fisheries agency reported Saturday.

The volume represents a decrease of 11,000 tons from this year.

In addition, Japan was allowed to haul an additional 18,000 tons in exchange for fees totaling 720 million yen, agency officials said. The quota figure is down 12,000 tons from this year.

Japan bowed to Russia's demand that both sides decrease their fishing quotas since hauls of sardine in the Japanese fishing zone have dropped, the officials said.

The Japanese quota consists mainly of squid, Pacific saury and Alaska pollack, they said.

The agreement was reached at bilateral negotiations that ended in Tokyo on Saturday, the officials said.

Japan requested that in fishery talks to be held in Moscow on Monday Russia not allow South Korean fishing boats to operate in waters around disputed islands north of Hokkaido, the officials said.

Fukuoka Forum Set Up To Study Russian Far East

OW1912122792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1130 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Fukuoka, Dec. 19 KYODO—About 50 students and businessmen from Japan and Russia set up a new forum in Fukuoka on Saturday to discuss the development of economic, cultural and scientific relations between the Russian Far East and Kyushu.

The forum, Fukuoka-Russian Conference, wae attended by Russian students studying in Japan and representatives of small and medium enterprises in the Fukuoka area. It is the first of its kind in western Japan.

It follows a series of meetings in recent months, all on a similar scale across eastern Japan, including Hokkaido and Niigata, which are geographically closer to Russia.

While it will not result in the formation of a new organization, the private Fukuoka-based think tank Fukuoka Soken, which planned the conference, will continue to act as a link with the region and Russia.

Fukuoka Soken plans to serve as a contact point for Russian scientists and economists, as well as organize economic study groups to Russia and promote courses on Russian studies.

Fukuoka Soken President Fumishige Yoshitsugu said a number of eminent Russian scholars have come to Fukuoka, creating close links between the city and Russia since the collapse of the former Soviet Union.

"The Russian Far East is entirely Asian," Yoehitsugu said. "We're pushing ahead in Fukuoka with exchanges with China, South Korea and Southeast Asia, and from now on it'll become an important point for linking up the two regions."

Miyazawa Urges 30 Nations To Aid Somali Effort

OW2312031192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0300 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 23 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has called on 30 major member states of the United Nations to provide financial contributions to the U.S.-led multinational force seeking to safeguard relief supplies in Somalia, government sources said Wednesday.

In a move to spearhead international fund-raising efforts to step up aid to war-torn Somalia, Miyazawa made the pitch for contributions to a UN fund to cover the costs of operations in Somalia in letters sent through Japanese Embassies in the countries, the sources said.

The premier also is reported to have paid respects to the countries which have sent personnel to the East African nation to join the UN-authorized multinational force.

The move came on the heels of a call from UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali for worldwide cooperation with the relief efforts in Somalia.

U.S. President George Bush is also expected to send some countries messages seeking financial assistance for the UN mission, the sources said.

Japan has pledged to make a 100 million dollar contribution to the UN fund, which aims to collect 400 million dollars for the UN efforts to restore order in Somalia.

It is Japan's second such contribution to a multinational force, following the payment of 11 billion dollars to U.S-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf war.

Pakistan Premier on Increased Investment, Visit

BK1912163892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said Pakistan and Japan have reached an understanding on various bilateral and international issues. The prime minister, who concluded his four-day official visit to Japan today, in a departure statement from Tokyo said: I am going back to my country fully satisfied with the results of my visit to Japan. He was confident that bilateral, political, and economic relations between Pakistan and Japan would improve further in the years ahead.

The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said there has been an increase in investment as a result of economic reforms and privatization program initiated by the government. The prime minister was talking to industrialists and businessmen accompanying him in Tokyo today. The increase in investment will be a boost to industrialization and create more job opportunities which will benefit the nation. Despite worldwide recession and unfavorable situation, the country's GNP has risen to 6.5 percent annually. With this appreciable increase, Pakistan has become the fifth country of the world having such a rate of growth. [sentence as heard]

The prime minister lauded the progress made by Japan and said if we adopt the same methodology of development, Pakistan would soon join the comity of developed nations. The prime minister outlined the causes of the country's backwardness and said wrong policies adopted by governments in the early seventies had circumvented the country's march to progress. The main reason for Japan's rapid progress is that it has not fallen victim to politics of confrontation. Our case is different, as vested interests never allowed the country to flourish. If anybody made attempts to achieve this objective, impediments were created in his way. The prime minister said there should be a consensus on national issues.

Leaves Tokyo for Singapore

BK1912164492 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] The prime minister left Tokyo today for Singapore at the conclusion of his four-day visit to Japan. He was given a warm send-off at the Haneda Airport. In a departure statement, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said Japan is now playing a more active role in international affairs, and in particular in the Asia-Pacific region, for ensuring peace and stability.

He expressed the hope that Japan would also play a more active role in economic development of South Asia. The prime minister thanked the Japanese business community for showing keen interest in investment opportunities in Pakistan. He was confident that Japanese investors would come forward in a big way to invest in Pakistan.

Romanian Finance Minister Visits; Loan Granted

AU1912194592 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1529 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo (ROMPRES) 19/12/1992—Minister of state and minister of finance of Romania, Florin Georgescu, paid an official visit to Tokyo where he met his Japanese counterpart, Yoshiro Hayashi, and other officials.

On the occasion, the Japanese minister of finance reiterated the attention his country's government pays to the democratization and liberalization processes in Eastern Europe as well as its wish to assist, alongside the other developed countries, Romania's efforts toward surmounting the difficulties of restructuring and transition to a market economy.

Together with Mitsuhide Yamaguchi, president of the Export-Import Bank of Japan (Eximbank) the Romanian finance minister signed an agreement whereby the Japanese side lends Romania, on advantageous terms, 100 million dollars as part of the 1991 agreement with the Group of 24 to back economic restructuring.

Miyazawa Discusses Issues With Opposition Leaders

OW2212140592 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Prime Minister Miyazawa met today with the leaders of opposition parties. During the meeting, the prime minister expressed his hope that the opposition parties will present their own plans for sweeping political reform, including reform of the current electoral system, in the next ordinary Diet session and debates will be held on those plans in the Diet session. During the meeting, Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the main opposition Social Democratic Party of Japan, said that former Prime Minister Takeshita's testimony at the Diet on his involvement in the Tokyo Sagawa scandal are not enough and he must resign from the Diet, and then asked for Prime Minister Miyazawa's view on Mr. Takeshita's resignation. In response, the prime minister said the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, from the standpoint of bearing responsibility for the scandal, took testimony today from Mr. Takeshita. In response to Mr. Tanabe's objection to the LDP-drafted plan for sweeping political reform centering on the introduction of a single-seat constituency system, the prime minister expressed the hope that ruling and opposition parties will hold discussions on their plans.

On the issue of opening the Japanese rice market, Koshiro Ishida, chairman of the Komeito, said during the meeting that it is important to maintain the GATT's free trade system, but I cannot support Japan's accepting rice tariffication. In response, the prime minister said that although the Uruguay Round of the GATT should not be broken off, Japan will advocate its position as an importer of agricultural products. In response to Chairman Ishida's demand for sharp cuts in the defense budget, the prime minister sought Mr. Ishida's understanding by pointing to a 580 billion yen cut in the Medium-Term Defense Buildup Plan [MTDBP].

At the meeting, Tetsuzo Fuwa, chairman of the Communist Party of Japan, said that the MTDBP was shaped mainly on the basis of the threat from the Soviet Union, and Japan's purchase of AWACS planes from the United States lacks rationality. In response, the prime minister said that the AWACS are necessary for Japan's exclusively defensive defense policy. At the meeting, Chairman Fuwa also asserted that enterprises should be banned from making contributions of political funds. In response, the prime minister said that there is no problem with their contribution of political funds from the standpoint of maintaining the current market economy.

Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party, stated that measures should be taken to expand personal spending and construct more housing to pull Japan out of the current economic slump, adding that the income tax should be cut by 2 trillion yen and the unfair tax burden for white-collar workers should be reduced. In response, the prime minister said that as for tax cuts, the government should consider a 2-trillion-yen tax cut, but under the current fiscal situation where the government relies on deficit-covering bonds, it is difficult for the government to cut taxes. During the meeting, Chairman Ouchi stated that the government should examine a special tax measure to stimulate the conversion of farmland in the suburbs into housing sites. In response, the prime minister said that he would ask the ruling party to hold talks specifically with the opposition party on the question.

Obuchi Backs Miyazawa for LDP Leader Reelection

OW1912103392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0905 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Fukuoka, Dec. 19 KYODO—Keizo Obuchi, former secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Saturday expressed support for a second term for Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa as LDP president. "If (Miyazawa) maneuvers his way through (a parliamentary row) over political reforms, the Tokyo summit and the regular Diet session, we will continue to support him and he should continue to stay in power," Obuchi said at a lecture meeting in this northern Japan city.

Obuchi is the first LDP faction leader to express a willingness to help Miyazawa retain the prime ministership.

Miyazawa's first two-year term as LDP president ends next fall. The LDP presidency carries with it the premiership because the LDP holds a commanding majority in the House of Representatives.

Following the breakup of the LDP's largest faction, founded by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, his mentor, Obuchi leads the faction's remaining 62 members.

Obuchi predicted the next general election will be held after the premier hosts a summit meeting of the leaders of seven major industrial nations next July rather than during the regular Diet session to be convened early next year. The next general election must be held by February 1994.

LDP's Ozawa, Hashimoto Discuss New Factions

OW2012165392

[Editorial Report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 0000 GMT on 20 December broadcasts a recorded program entitled "Takeshita Faction's Split and the Future of Politics," composed of separate interviews with Ichiro Ozawa and Ryutaro Hashimoto, central figures in the Hata faction and Obuchi faction, respectively. The interviews are conducted by NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto and Senshu University Professor Kimihiro Masamura.

The interview begins with Ozawa. Yamamoto asks why the Takeshita faction, the largest within the LDP, had to be split. Explaining that the split was triggered by kingpin Shin Kanemaru's resignation from the Diet, Ozawa stresses, "It is time for politicians to be at pains to implement political reform for the 21st century." Ozawa continues by saying that Reform Forum 21 [Hata faction] was established to achieve political reform. Yamamoto next asks for Ozawa's comment on the belief that the Takeshita faction was divided because of emotional entanglements among faction members. While admitting there was emotional confrontation, Ozawa notes there were also differing views among members—one group supports conservative ideas and the other [the Hata faction] supports reformist ideas. "That difference basically separates the Hata faction from other factions," Ozawa explains. Professor Masamura asks on what exact points the Hata faction differs from the existing factions. Ozawa says: "Hata faction members think that the world structure has changed, and Japan has to assume responsibility for achieving peace not only in Japan, but also in the rest of the world. In this context, Japan should implement political reform; otherwise, it will not be able to survive in the changing world."

After noting that there are many politicians within the LDP and opposition parties who feel political reform is necessary, Masamura says that the Hata faction is expected to draw up persuasive policies. Masamura then asks how the faction plans to promote political reform. In response, Ozawa says: "Japan has to break the current political system, in which the ruling party continues to administer the nation and other political groups remain opposition parties. The best way to break this system is to reform the electoral system, which I think will eventually change politicians' and political parties' concepts of politics. In this context, the Hata faction wants to be part of the effort to implement political reform."

Yamamoto asks whether Ozawa thinks small-seat constituencies are ideal in forming a two-party system. Ozawa says "a small-seat constituency system will work most effectively to realize a change of government," but adds any other electoral system that can break the conventional political system is also acceptable. Ozawa says: "Under the cold war structure, Japan let other nations, including the United States, decide what direction Japan should take. Also, the majority principle has not worked well in Japanese politics," noting the need to improve democracy in Japan and establish a system in which each politician and political party discusses topics fully with others.

Yamamoto next brings up the issue of shifting power from the central government to local governments, one of the reform measures Ozawa has proposed. Ozawa explains the idea of the power shift, saying: "Less important administrative matters should be taken care of by local governments so that the central government can deal with issues that are more important and concern the whole nation." While noting the difficulties facing the shift, Ozawa says political reform will trigger administrative reform, and then the shift of power. Ozawa then discusses adverse influences of power centralization.

Yamamoto moves on to the issue of a series of political scandals which were recently revealed, asking Ozawa how he feels about them. Ozawa says: "Politicians cannot atone for themselves with a mere apology. It is important for them to take action to cleanse politics." Asked how he responds to the demand from opposition parties that he appear before the Diet to testify in order to unearth facts concerning the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal, Ozawa says, "I am prepared to tell everything I know to everyone at any place."

Yamamoto asks how Ozawa intends to promote political reform under the current situation, in which other LDP members have become increasingly critical of him. Ozawa says: "The general public now thinks the current political and economic situation should not be left unchanged; therefore, if politicians are enthusiastic about changing the situation with any possible measures, they will accept us. Politicians themselves should have the courage to promote reform." Masamura notes the need for politicians to make the people know the importance of political reform, since there are still many who think political reform is not imminent. Ozawa says "if politicians explain the current situation without hiding any facts or the need to change it, people will understand the importance of doing so."

Asked whether the Hata faction intends to cooperate in realizing political reform with members from opposition parties who advocate the idea, Ozawa says: "Political reform cannot be accomplished by the ruling party alone; therefore, it is necessary for the LDP to discuss the issue with opposition parties." Also asked whether he plans to form a new political party in the future, Ozawa says: "Right now I have no intention to do so, but if I am urged to do so in the future, I may."

Yamamoto asks Ozawa how the Hata faction will deal with the new Miyazawa cabinet. While indicating his intention to support Miyazawa until the end of his term as prime minister, Ozawa notes "the Hata faction will assert its policies even if they are different from those indicated by the cabinet."

The interview with Ryutaro Hashimoto begins next. Yamamoto first seeks Hashimoto's comment on Ozawa's opinion that the Takeshita faction was split because of differences in perceptions among members concerning the current situation of whether or not political reform is urgent. Hashimoto disagrees with Ozawa's opinion, saying: "Every politician thinks political reform is necessary." Hashimoto continues by saying: "Three years ago, following the Recruit scandal, the cabinet drew up guidelines for political reform. While indicating these guidelines to the people, the LDP pledged to achieve political reform. This pledge has to be observed. Also, all politicians are resolved to implement political reform." Hashimoto notes: "Political reform is not the theme on which politicians appeal for public support. Rather, politicians should make efforts to recover public trust in politics. Political reform is the theme that politicians themselves have to tackle."

Asked about what impact the Takeshita faction split had on other factions, Hashimoto says: "It is true other factions were complaining of the Takeshita faction's high-handed behavior. I have recently been told that because of pressure from the Takeshita faction, other factions could not say what they wanted to say. Although former members of the Takeshita faction lost influence as a result of the breakup, this may have a positive effect on the LDP itself."

Yamamoto asks whether Hashimoto thinks most of the facts of the Sagawa Kyubin scandal were unearthed through Takeshita's and Kanemaru's testimonies. Although he says he cannot comment on this issue because he is not involved in the investigations, Hashimoto remarks: "The scandal's overall picture will gradually become clear since the opposition parties have insisted they will continue investigations; also, the ordinary Diet session and the prosecution have made efforts to resolve this issue. Here I want to say one thing. I want to ask Mr. Kanemaru and Takeshita to take responsibility by clarifying what caused the scandal, not by resigning from the Diet." Asked what he thinks of the public calls for Takeshita to take political and moral responsibility, Hashimoto begins referring to a case in which his aide was allegedly involved in a securities irregularity last year and Hashimoto himself was placed in a difficult situation. He says: "At the time, I was asked by many people to step down from my finance ministerial post, but I thought this case was not one I could take responsibility for by merely resigning as finance minister. Therefore, after I made an all-out effort to unearth the facts concerning the irregularity and indicated measures to prevent a similar irregularity from occurring, I stepped down." He continues: "I think it is more important to probe causes for political scandals and to take measures to prevent recurrence than to take responsibility by resigning."

Masamura inquires whether politicians are all aware of the importance of political reform. Hashimoto asserts they are, saying: "They all think that when the time comes in which nobody says the current electoral system is good, some measures should be taken to change it. Although the LDP has proposed a single-seat electoral system, it has no intention of clinging to it. Political parties should hold discussions to find a common base for a new electoral system."

Asked how the current political situation—in which politicians tend to abuse their authority and give government subsidies to their constituencies to collect votes—should be changed, Hashimoto says: "I was once in charge of administrative reform. Against strong objections, I promoted reducing subsidies given to local governments. As a result, I lost many good friends and a lot of people quit supporting me." Hashimoto then speaks about three major points Japan should pay attention to in the future. He says: "Although Japan has to maintain its relations with the United States, the nature of the relationship is certain to change." Hashimoto continues: "Japan and the United States will have to decide what responsibilities each side should assume in the international community." He moves on to other points, saying: "Because of an increasingly elderly society, the social, economic, and industrial structure will inevitably change," indicating that the population change should be taken into account when the government discusses social, economic, and industrial issues. Moreover, he says: "Japan and the rest of the world are now experiencing a shortage of finances. The question of how to raise necessary funds is a grave problem, I think."

Asked what his prospects are for possibly reforming the political world, Hashimoto says: "The ruling and opposition parties have not worked out measures for reform, so it may be difficult to implement reform now; however, as discussions develop, it may become possible." Yamamoto asks how relations between the Hata and Obuchi factions will be in the future. Hashimoto merely says: "Friendships with members of the Hata faction will remain unchanged." Asked about the future of LDP factions, Hashimoto notes: "All faction members will have to share responsibility for collecting political funds; otherwise, managing the factions will become difficult."

Asked what kind of leaders are needed in contemporary Japan, Hashimoto says: "Currently, the LDP has been making all-out efforts to help the Miyazawa cabinet successfully conclude the upcoming Tokyo Summit; therefore, it is not wise to say anything that weakens the government's position." Hashimoto concludes the interview by saying: "Recovering public trust in politics is a task for all politicians."

Ex-Governor Said To Buy Car With Sagawa Money

OW1912152892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1436 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Niigata, Dec. 19 KYODO—Former Niigata Governor Kiyoshi Kaneko used the proceeds of an illegal political donation from the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. to buy a luxury car, sources said Saturday.

The sources said Kaneko bought the car for some 7 million yen immediately after winning the gubernatorial election in June 1989.

Kaneko quit his post in August after admitting he failed to declare a 100 million yen donation from Hiroyasu Watanabe, the then president of the parcel delivery firm, which has since been absorbed into the Sagawa Kyubin Group.

The sources said Kaneko made the purchase in his own name using money from an election campaign fund which included the 100 million yen.

They said Kaneko made the purchase from what was left of the fund for conducting political activities other than his official gubernatorial duties.

The vehicle was sold to a car dealer in September immediately after Kaneko announced his resignation as governor and some 3 million yen was paid to the election campaign committee as proceeds from the sale, according to the sources.

A former member of the campaign committee said the car was bought in Kaneko's name in order to apply for a garage permit.

"I don't know whether it was used for private purposes," he said.

Local SDP Delegate Demands Tanabe Resign

OW2212012892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1204 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—A Social Democratic Party (SDP) delegate from Kagawa Prefecture, western Japan, on Monday called on SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe to resign to open the way for a sweeping reform of the party's leadership.

At the 70th meeting of the party's central committee, the Kagawa delegate pointed to Tanabe's close links with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's disgraced former Vice President, Shin Kanemaru.

Kanemaru was fined for accepting illegal political donations of 500 million yen from the scandal-ridden Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Trucking Company.

"If we envisage a victory in the general election and the Tokyo municipal assembly elections, we have to create a leadership that does not have to justify itself," the Kagawa delegate said.

His call to convene an extraordinary party convention at an early date to deal with the leadership issue was supported by a delegate from Saitama Prefecture, neighboring Tokyo, and representatives of the party's youth organization.

SDP Secretary General Sadao Yamahana turned down the request, saying the current Central Committee meeting aimed at preparing the regular party convention.

"We will take into consideration the opinions expressed at this central committee meeting when delineating the executive's future course," Yamahana said.

Delegates also protested at the SDP's recent approval of a bill on the reapportioning of Diet seats between over-represented and under-represented constituencies despite the party executive's prior opposition to the bill.

SDP Chairman Tanabe Seeks Early Elections

OW2112030492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0202 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the largest opposition group, the Social Democratic Party (SDP), vowed Monday to push for general elections early next year and to force Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa to step down.

In an address to the 70th central committee, he said his party has to field 300 candidates with the common objective of political reform in the House of Representatives elections expected to be held sometime next year.

Tanabe acknowledged, however, that reform should start within his own party, which has 141 members in the 512-member lower house.

Outlining his party's goals for the Diet session that begins on January 22, Tanabe said, "We have to win the dissolution of the House of Representatives and the general elections at an early opportunity and drive the Miyazawa cabinet out of power."

Another main goal during the Diet session, he said, is to fully probe the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mobster scandal, which has led to the breakup of the largest faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP].

The faction's former leader, former LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru, with whom Tanabe is widely known to have close ties, resigned from the Diet in October because of his involvement in the scandal.

Kanemaru has admitted receiving 500 million yen in illegal contributions from the parcel delivery company.

In his speech on the opening day of the two-day convention, SDP Chairman Tanabe proposed legislation to ban political contributions from companies and groups.

LDP Ends Investigation of Sagawa Kyubin Scandal

OW2212083892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0818 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said Tuesday it has wrapped up looking into the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin scandal after questioning former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita at an extraordinary meeting of the party executives. At a press conference following 80 minutes of questioning, LDP Secretary General Seiroku Kajiyama said Takeshita's answers showed he was not involved in the use of gangsters to help him become prime minister in 1987.

Kajiyama quoted Takeshita as saying, "From now on I will make all efforts to clarify all misunderstandings" about the matter.

Opposition parties, which have been demanding Takeshita give up his Diet seat over the scandal, criticized the party questioning as a cover-up carried out by Takeshita followers.

Takeshita allegedly sought the help of an underworld syndicate to bring to an end a harassment campaign by a rightist group that tried to mar his bid for the LDP leadership and thus the prime ministership. Testifying at both the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors, Takeshita dismissed all allegations of his being involved with the gangsters.

The party executives decided to summon Takeshita to the extraordinary meeting as Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa earlier promised the Diet an intra-party investigation. During the meeting, Kajiyama reportedly said the LDP also considered reactivating the Diet's Council on Political Ethics as the basis for political reform. A recent extraordinary Diet session eased the prerequisites for convening the ethics council, founded in the aftermath of the 1976 Lockheed scandal to monitor politicians' activities but whose actual proceedings were soon suspended.

"Conditions for opening (the council) have been eased in case a suspect wants to restore his credibility. We want to make the Diet's revival of the ethics council the basis for political reform," Kajiyama was quoted as saying at the meeting. Analysts said the LDP is interested in reviving the council to avert further demands by opposition parties to continue questioning Takeshita about the scandal during the upcoming regular Diet session.

Elections Said Possible Over Electoral Reform

OW1912145592 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 19 Dec 92

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] Chairman Keizo Obuchi of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Obuchi faction said today that general elections may be held over election system reform if the ruling and opposition parties cannot reach an agreement. Speaking in Fukuoka City, he said the LDP should use the election system reform issue as the focal point for making an appeal to public confidence in the next general elections.

Mr. Obuchi said the dissolution of the lower house will come after passage of the 1993 budget bill and Group-of-Seven summit in Tokyo scheduled for next July. He also said the lower house would be dissolved before the end of its term.

Mr. Obuchi also stressed the need for electoral system reform, and said the LDP's proposal for introduction of single-seat constituency districts should be submitted to the next Diet session so opposition parties are stimulated to provide counterproposals. He noted that, since electoral system reform is like a revolution in a democratic society, the final decision should be made by the general public if the ruling and opposition parties are unable to reach an agreement on the issue.

Majority of Assemblies Urge Political Ethics

OW2012095592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0854 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 20 KYODO—About two-thirds of Japan's local assemblies have adopted resolutions demanding greater observance of political ethics, a reaction to the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin money-and-mob scandal, a KYODO News Service survey showed Sunday.

The local assemblies with such resolutions, including prefectural, municipal and town administrations, totaled 2,201 as of Sunday, compared with 721 in a KYODO survey October 29, the survey said.

The number of local assemblies adopting the resolution equals two-thirds of Japan's 3,306 local assemblies, including the 23 wards in Tokyo.

KYODO conducted the survey to gauge the reactions of local governments to the political scandal concerning Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co., a now-defunct express parcel delivery company.

The latest survey also found the Hokkaido Prefectural Assembly and 58 other local assemblies had adopted resolutions demanding that former Prime minister Noboru Takeshita retire from politics.

Takeshita testified twice in the Diet under oath of allegiance that he received help from mobsters in becoming prime minister in 1987.

Takeshita, in his testimony, brushed aside the allegations that mobsters played a key role in quashing a right-wing group's smear campaign against him, allowing him to win the presidency of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and become prime minister.

He also spurned an opposition demand for his departure from politics to take overall responsibility for the scandal.

The Hokkaido Prefectural Assembly adopted the resolution calling for Takeshita's resignation from the Diet on December 14 to become the nation's 47th prefectural assembly to press the demand.

A total of 43 prefectural assemblies have adopted resolutions seeking closer observance of political ethics in the wake of the Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin affair, the survey said.

The four prefectural assemblies failing to adopt such resolutions include Shimane and Yamanashi.

Former LDP kingmaker Shin Kanemaru used to hold a House of Representatives constituency in Yamanashi Prefecture, while a lower house electoral district in Shimane Prefecture sent Takeshita to the Diet.

Kanemaru, formerly the LDP vice president, quit the Diet in October due to an outpouring of public outrage about his 1990 receipt of an illicit 500 million yen political donation from Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin.

Among municipal assemblies which castigated Takeshita in resolutions, Kyoto said Takeshita was responsible for how he became prime minister regardless of his knowledge about the mob roles in silencing the 1987 right-wing harassment of him.

A number of local assemblies voiced dissatisfaction with a series of probes into the scandal and demanded a horough investigation of the affair, the survey said.

Political Reform Plan To Regain 'Public Trust'

OW2212105192 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 22 Dec 92

[From the "NHK News" program]

[Text] At a general council meeting of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] held today, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said that he would devote his heart, mind, and strength to achieving drastic political reform primarily through the introduction of single-seat constituencies for the House of Representatives. In this way, Miyazawa emphasized his determination.

Today's meeting was held to officially endorse the basic plan for drastic political reform. The plan was compiled on 10 December by the LDP Political Reform Headquarters. At the outset of the meeting, Prime Minister Miyazawa said the reform plan provides basic measures to promote political reform, and he asked participants to adopt the plan as a party policy. The prime minister said:

[Begin Miyazawa recording; video shows Miyazawa addressing group of LDP officials] If the plan is adopted, a body to promote reform will be needed. Working as chairman of the body, I am determined to devote my heart, mind, and strength to regaining public trust in politics, as well as to establishing a new type of politics in Japan. [end recording]

Right now participants are exchanging views on the basic plan, which includes the introduction of single-seat constituencies to the lower house and a proposal of disclosing small political donations.

LDP Endorses Plan on Single-Seat Constituencies

OW2212084492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0656 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) endorsed Tuesday the basic policies of a political reform plan whose main feature is the introduction of single-seat constituencies for the House of Representatives, party officials said. The Executive Council, the party's highest decision-making body, approved in a meeting the policies compiled by its political reform council, the officials said.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told the council he will assume the leadership of an organization to promote political reform, adding he will be devoted to creating new politics and recovering the trust of the Japanese people.

Apart from the introduction of single-seat constituencies in the 512-seat lower house, the plan includes creation of a system to provide subsidies for parties contesting elections, the officials said. A ban on the delivery and receipt of political money among lawmakers and an end to cabinet personnel being selected on the basis of factional strengths and hierarchies are also proposed, they said.

Miyazawa will submit the plan to the ordinary session of the Diet in late January after the government completes legislative preparations. He faces an uphill battle in the Diet as the opposition parties oppose changing the system from multiple- to single-seat constituencies.

Vote Disparity Reportedly Less in Lower House

OW2312113492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1011 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 23 KYODO—The disparity in the vote value between densely and scarcely populated electoral districts for the House of Representatives has narrowed to 2.81-1 from last year's 3.34-1 due to the revision of the election law earlier this month, the Home Affairs Ministry said in a report released Wednesday.

The figure narrowly clears the 3-1 ceiling on the disparity of vote value as set in a Supreme Court precedent-setting decision. The court says a gap greater than three times is an "unconstitutional" one. But the gap in vote value for the House of Councillors has widened to 6.62-1 from 6.53-1, the report said.

The Diet passed a revision bill for the Public Offices Election Law on December 10, partially reallocating lower house seats to reduce the vote disparity. The revised law adds one seat each to nine underrepresented constituencies and shaves one seat each from 10 overrepresented constituencies, decreasing the total seats in the lower chamber to 511 from 512.

The report said Tokyo's four-seat No. 7 electoral district for the lower house had the biggest number of per-seat voters at 314,181, followed by Tokyo No. 11 at 309,306, and Kanagawa Prefecture's No. 2 at 300,146. Fukushima Prefecture's five-seat No. 2 district had the fewest per-seat voters at 111,675. This means a ballot in the Fukushima constituency was 2.81 times more valuable than one in the Tokyo No. 7 constituency.

The Supreme Court earlier ruled that a disparity in representation over three times infringes on the Constitution, which guarantees equality for people. In the upper house, there were eight constituencies where each vote is worth three times more than that of the least populated constituencies.

The Kanagawa prefectural constituency had the most voters per seat with 1,535,449 and the Tottori prefectural constituency had the fewest per-seat with 231,904. The disparity in vote value between the two constituencies is 6.62-1, surpassing the previous 6.53-1 last year.

The survey put the number of eligible voters across the nation at 93,432,443 as of September 2, up 1,161,931 or 1.26 percent from the previous year.

Watanabe Warns Against Optimism on Tax Revenues

OW1912091492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0749 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Utsunomiya, Dec. 19 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe criticized the Finance Ministry on Saturday for taking an optimistic stance toward tax revenues in fiscal 1993 starting April 1.

Lecturing in Utsunomiya, north of Tokyo, Watanabe said it would be difficult for the government to secure tax revenues estimated by the Finance Ministry for the next fiscal year.

The ministry's draft budget to be presented to the government of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday estimated income from taxes at 61.3 trillion yen, government sources said.

Watanabe said tax revenues in the current fiscal year are at least 1 trillion yen short of the ministry's projection.

The government should be prepared to compile a supplementary budget soon after the main fiscal program is enacted, he said.

Watanabe has urged the government to be ready to issue debt-financing bonds.

Tokyo's Grants to Local Governments Reduced

OW1912103192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0948 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 19 KYODO—The central government's tax grants to local governments will be reduced by 400 billion yen to about 15.6 trillion yen in the general account of the fiscal 1993 national budget, government officials said Saturday.

The specially treated reduction, following some 450 billion yen in fiscal 1991 and 850 billion yen in the current fiscal 1992, was agreed upon in negotiations between Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi and Home Affairs Minister Keijiro Murata, the officials said.

Excluding debt repayments and other spending in the special account for local allocation tax, about 15.4 trillion yen will go to tax grants under fiscal programs of local governments.

The Home Affairs Ministry has rejected the Finance Ministry's demand for steeper cutbacks than the current year to cover expected shortfalls in tax revenues.

At the request of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, Murata agreed on the reduction on condition the amount is limited to as little as possible, the officials said.

Including the local tax grants, the Finance Ministry will present its fiscal 1993 draft budget package to ministries and agencies after obtaining approval at a special cabinet meeting Monday morning.

The general account budget will total 72.35 trillion yen, up 0.2 percent from the current fiscal year's original budget, or the lowest growth since the zero expansion in fiscal 1987, Finance Ministry officials said.

General operating expenditures, the core of the budget for financing such key government policies as defense, social welfare and foreign aid, will amount to 39.91 trillion yen.

The total for general operating expenditures is 3.1 percent higher than fiscal 1992, but the growth is the lowest since a 1.2 percent rise in fiscal 1988.

Of the key expenses, the ministry plans to allow growth of just above 1.5 percent for defense spending, the prime area of public attention, the officials said.

The official development assistance budget is likely to expand by about 6 percent.

Final settlement for the two budgets is likely to move into renewed negotiations next week, the officials said.

Outlays for public works will be up by 4.8 percent, reflecting the government's efforts to stimulate the flagging economy.

On the revenue side, the ministry's fiscal 1993 budget expects tax revenues of 61.3 trillion yen, the first decline from the previous year in 10 fiscal years.

To make up for the low tax revenues, the ministry will sharply increase nontax revenues, including contributions from the Bank of Japan, to 2.73 trillion yen.

Contruction bonds will be floated, almost to the ceiling level of 8.13 billion yen, an 11.2 percent share of the general account, up from 10.1 percent of the original fiscal 1992 budget.

Business Leaders React to FY93 Draft Budget

OW2112112392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1022 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Business leaders gave a cautious welcome on Monday to the Finance Ministry's draft budget for fiscal 1993, but cast doubts on whether it can serve to pump much-needed energy into the faltering economy.

"It can be read that (the government) has made every effort under tough fiscal conditions," said Gaishi Hiraiwa, chairman of the powerful Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren). In particular, Hiraiwa and other business leaders pointed to the relatively high pace of growth in public works spending despite flat growth in general-account spending as a whole.

The fiscal 1993 draft budget calls for an anemic 0.2 percent increase in general-account outlays, while proposing a relatively strong 4.8 percent rise in public works and related spending.

Masaki Yoshida, chairman of the Japan Chemical Industry Association, said he greatly appreciated this robust growth in public works spending.

But many business leaders shared the view that more should be done to activate the economy.

"It can be said that the state of the economy is in a major recession," said Hiroshi Saito, chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation.

Jiro Kawake, chairman of the Japan Paper Association, joined Saito in expressing doubts about the effectiveness of the draft budget in pulling the economy out of its current downturn.

"I really wonder whether this is enough to boost the economy," Kawake said in a statement reflecting the shaky business climate surrounding the nation's paper and pulp manufacturers.

Some business leaders urged the government to cut income taxes and cut the Bank of Japan's official discount rate in order to buoy up the economy.

"The government should implement a drastic cut in income taxes," said Yoshiaki Sakakura, chairman of the Japan Department Stores Association.

"The official discount rate should be lowered further," said Hideo Mori, chairman of the Japan Chemical Industry Association.

On budget-funding issues, many business leaders were not negative about issuing deficit-financing bonds, but Takeshi Nagano, head of the Japan Federation of Employers' Associations, and some others appealed for the government to take belt-tightening measures to save money.

"The government should continue to make efforts to curtail unnecessary spending," Nagano said.

Business Doubtful About Economic Growth Target

OW2112045792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0410 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—Business leaders expressed strong doubt Monday that the Japanese economy would hit the government's 3.3 percent growth target in fiscal 1993, which begins next April 1.

The economic target was outlined by executives of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party at a meeting with representatives of four major economic organizations, including the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), party officials said.

Rokuro Ishikawa, chairman of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said he is doubtful that the domestic economy will pick up in the latter half of next year, the officials said.

He added that the government may be forced to issue debt-financing national bonds to make up for revenue shortfalls next year.

Masaru Hayami, head of the Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai), urged the government to issue short-term deficit-covering bonds, the officials said.

Hayami also demanded that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa decide to open Japan's rice market before he embarks on a tour of Southeast Asian nations in January in order for Japan to take the initiative for a successful conclusion of the deadlocked Uruguay Round of global trade negotiations, they said.

The LDP officials objected to the demand, holding to the party's position that Japan is the world's leading farm importing nation and its position on farm imports is different from those of exporting countries such as the United States and West European nations.

Ministries Request Increases in Budget Outlays

OW2212061892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0539 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—The Foreign Ministry sought an increase of 6 to 7 percent in Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) under the fiscal 1993 budget in bargaining with the Finance Ministry, government officials said Tuesday.

The Foreign Ministry was among a number of Japanese Government ministries and agencies which started working-level bargaining with the Finance Ministry to seek the restoration of appropriations they had requested under the budget for the year that starts on April 1.

The Finance Ministry's draft budget, announced Monday, called for an increase of only 4.7 percent in the ODA budget.

A Foreign Ministry official, seeking a raise in the ODA budget, told a Finance Ministry budget examiner that foreign countries expect Japan to make more international contributions.

The government is scheduled to adopt the fiscal 1993 budget on Saturday, following subcabinet- and cabinet-level bargaining on reinstating money sought by various ministries and agencies.

Here are the main allocations ministries want restored:

—The Defense Agency is seeking increases in outlays for improvement of billets and other facilities for Self-Defense Forces personnel and in the research and development expenses for the new generation fighter FSX, being jointly developed by Japan and the United States. No increase was proposed for the expenses in the Finance Ministry draft.

—As part of the ODA budget, the Foreign Ministry is asking for more in grants-in-aid outlays, which the Finance Ministry allocated 232.2 billion yen, down from the requested amount of 248.8 billion yen.

—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is demanding a reinstatement of 104.9 billion yen for creation of a special account for better energy utilization and for reinstatement of 54 billion yen for aid to smaller industries.

—The Health and Welfare Ministry is seeking a reinstatement of 1 billion yen in governmental aid to programs for anonymous testing on AIDS and to prefectural programs to deal with AIDS problems.

Firm To Help Associations Cope With Bad Debts

OW2212134192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1315 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Credit associations and credit cooperatives will be allowed to sell their real estate collateral to a new company to be established in January to help Japanese banks cope with growing numbers of bad debts, a leading commercial banker said Tuesday.

Tsuneo Wakai, chairman of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, said credit associations, credit cooperatives, and Norin Chukin Bank, as well as the banks and financial institutions that will provide capital to the new firm, will be allowed to ask the company to buy their claims to land held as collateral against non-performing loans.

Wakai said the new company, which will be established by commercial banks to facilitate the writing off of bad debts, will start operation in January. As many as 162 banks and financial institutions, including the Central Bank for Commercial and Industrial Cooperatives (Shoko Chukin), will put up the 7,925 million yen capital for the company, wakai said.

In suggesting the possibility that the new company might also purchase claims to real estate collateral from non-bank lenders, he said such claims should be free from any legal encumbrances.

The company will publish the total value of claims it has bought in each of its business reports, but not the figures for each financial institution, he said.

Wakai was also skeptical about requiring financial institutions to disclose information about their sales of bad debts to the new company.

Development Bank Eases Credit To Promote Imports

OW2212125992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1229 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Japan Development Bank said Tuesday it will provide low-interest loans for import promotion, starting Thursday. The government-financed bank said the new loans will carry an annual interest rate of 4.6 percent, down from 5.15 percent for existing loans for similar purposes.

The government incorporated a low-interest loan scheme to promote Japanese imports of products in the comprehensive economic stimulus package introduced in August. Corporations planning to build or improve facilities for inspection, storage, and distribution of imported goods are eligible for the new scheme.

The bank said it also will cut interest rates on loans for special projects such as promotion of investment in Japan and consolidation of industrial infrastructure. The interest rate on investment-promotion loans will be lowered to 5.0 percent from the present 5.15 percent, the bank said.

Official: Budget Not Enough To Boost Economy

OW2212104292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1022 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Banking industry leader Tsuneo Wakai said Tuesday the government is expected to formulate an extra budget to stimulate the domestic economy in the early part of next year. Wakai, chairman of the Federation of Bankers Association of Japan, said the Finance Ministry's draft budget for the new fiscal year, which will begin next April 1, will not be enough to prop up the slumping economy.

Wakai, also president of Mitsubishi Bank, ruled out any possibility the Bank of Japan will carry out another cut in the official discount rate in the near future. Such a step is not necessary under the current economic situation, he said.

Wakai expressed concern over the stock market slump, saying weak stock prices may squeeze profits of commercial banks laden with swollen amounts of nonperforming loans.

Additional 11 Billion Yen Allocated for Defense

OW2312021592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0143 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 23 KYODO—The Finance Ministry has agreed to allocate an additional 11 billion yen for defense spending for the next fiscal year, boosting the defense budget by 1.9 percent over the initial budget for the current fiscal year, the YOMIURI SHIMBUN reported Wednesday.

The extra spending, which has been agreed upon between the Finance Ministry and the Defense Agency, comes on top of the 4,631 billion yen defense budget originally planned by the ministry in its draft budget unveiled Monday.

Still, fiscal 1993 defense spending will remain conservative, with its growth the lowest since a 0.6 percent rise in fiscal 1960. The Finance Ministry's original plan provided for a 1.7 percent year-on-year increase for fiscal 1993, which begins April 1.

The major newepaper said the additional spending is mainly for rear support, including the construction of houses and other living facilities for Self-Defense Forces personnel. The Finance Ministry originally allocated 129.8 billion yen for those items, against the defense agency's 141.8 billion yen request.

Outlays for frontline military equipment, including tanks and fighters, meanwhile, are not likely to be increased, reflecting the end of the cold war, which makes it unnecessary to build much defense power, the YOMIURI reported.

Group Issues Annual Report on Global Investment

OW2212130192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1122 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—World foreign investment declined 25.8 percent from a year before to 170 billion U.S. dollars in 1991, the first dip in nine years, the semigovernmental Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro) said in a report Tuesday.

The annual report on global foreign investment cited a combination of deteriorated corporate earnings amid recession in major industrialized nations and cautious bank lending caused by asset deflation as reasons for the decline. The declining trend continued well into 1992, Jetro said, ruling out the possibility of a quick recovery in the near future.

In 1991, Japan kept its position as the world's leader in overseas investment for the third year in a row, although its foreign investment fell 36.0 percent to 30.7 billion dollars. The size of Japanese foreign investment was roughly 19 times that of foreign investment in Japan in the same year, indicating that Japan remained closed to foreign investors. The United States came second with 27.1 billion dollars, down 17.0 percent, followed by Germany with 21.5 billion dollars, down 6.0 percent.

Japanese investment abroad soared in the late 1980s due to the yen's sharp appreciation against the dollar but has been on the decline since peaking in the first quarter of 1990.

The Jetro report said an erosion in profitability at Japanese subsidiaries abroad and the burst of the so-called bubble economy are to blame for the drop in investment overseas.

China proved to be an attractive market for Japanese investors in 1991 with Japanese investment growing a steady 25.2 percent. Japanese investment in Latin America jumped 63.9 percent after years of slow growth, apparently reflecting the return of political stability in the region. But the pace of growth of Japanese investment in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) slowed in the wake of higher wages in the region, the report said.

Legalization of Rights for Foreigners Demanded

OW2112113892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1017 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 21 KYODO—A group which fights for the rights of foreign workers in Japan submitted a declaration to the Labor and Justice Ministries Monday seeking to have certain guidelines enshrined in law.

The declaration, organized by the Asian Peoples' Friendship Society (APFS), was signed by 886 foreign workers. It also represents foreigners working in Japan illegally.

The declaration cited major differences in work practices and medical care between Japanese and foreigners workers as well as problems caused by work-related accidents and wage exploitation.

It says non-Japanese workers should have a guaranteed right to work, as well as to housing, medical care and welfare services. It also calls for an end to discrimination and prejudice.

The declaration draws on the experience of APFS members who daily deal with problems encountered by foreign workers in Japan.

APFS member Katsuo Yoshinari said the problems include workers who are dismissed for taking as much as one day off work because of a cold or for demanding annual wage increases.

The Labor Ministry estimates there are more than 500,000 foreign workers in Japan, including those working illegally.

This accounts for about 1 percent of the work force of Japan.

Rice Harvest Rises 10 Percent From Previous Year

OW2212040292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0259 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 22 KYODO—Japan's rice harvest for the year ending October 31 rose 10 percent from the previous year to 10,573,000 tons, the fourth highest on record, the Farm Ministry reported Tuesday.

The amount equals 504 kilograms per 10 ares of farmland.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu presented the rice figures to a morning cabinet meeting. But his report showed that government-controlled and cheap rice will remain in short supply because farmers tend to sell a portion of their harvest to market traders at higher prices.

The inventory at the end of the 1993 rice year falling from November to October will likely only grow to some 400,000 tons from the previous year's 260,000 tons, the report said.

In the 1992 rice year, 10,546,000 tons of the grain was harvested at rice paddies, up 10 percent. The report noted that good weather, coupled with an extra 59,000 hectares of farmland made available for rice production, led to the higher output.

The harvest was rated an average 101 on a base of 100 compared to the previous year's 95.

On a regional basis, the rating was above 100 across the board, except in Hokkaido, far northern Japan, which ranked 89 because low temperatures and lack of sunshine caused a poor harvest.

Drought caused nonpaddy rice output to fall 31 percent to 26,900 tons because of droughts.

North Korea

Defense Minister Greets SRV Counterpart

SK2212061392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—Marshal of the DPRK O Chin- u, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to General Doan Khue, minister of national defence of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on the occasion of the 48th anniversary of the founding of the Vietnamese People's Army.

The message expresses the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the armies of the two countries will continue to develop on good terms, and wishes the Vietnamese defence minister fresh success in his work for increasing the country's defence capabilities.

Army Generals Attend Movie at SRV Embassy

SK1912092192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—Vietnamese Ambassador to Korea Duong Chinh Thuc arranged a film show at his embassy Thursday on the occasion of the Vietnamese Army Day.

Invited there were General Chon Chae-son and other generals and officers of the Korean People's Army [KPA] and personages concerned.

The participants saw a Vietnamese documentary film.

Prime Minister Greets New Russian Counterpart

SK2212110092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—Premier of the Administration Council Kang Song-san sent a message of greetings to Victor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin upon his election as prime minister of the Government of the Russian Federation.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will continue developing on the principles of independence, equality and mutual respect, the message wishes him success in his work.

CIS Committee Meets To Promote Reunification

SK2312051492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 (KCNA)—A conference was held in Tashkent on December 12 on the occasion of the third anniversary of the formation of the Committee for the Promotion of Korea's Reunification in the Commonwealth of Independent States (ASOK).

Present there were chairman Kang Il, vice-chairmen, the secretary-general and other officials of the central body of the ASOK, representatives of the ASOK from states and regions of the CIS, officials of the regional headquarters of the Pan-national Federation of Youth and Students for the Country's Reunification (Pomchonghaknyon) and Korean veterans.

Congratulatory messages from the North side's headquarters of the National Alliance for the Country's Reunification (Pomminnyon), the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, the Korean Committee for Aiding Overseas Compatriots, the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean residents in Japan, the overseas headquarters of Pomminnyon and other organisations were read at the conference.

A silk banner sent in joint name by the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland and the North side's headquarters of Pomminnyon were conveyed.

The head of the delegation of the North side's headquarters of Pomminnyon made a congratulatory speech.

Noting that the ASOK in the past three years since its foundation has made significant achievements in the work to expand and strengthen its organisation and closely rally the compatriots around it, he stressed that the ASOK, an organisation of the reunification movement, is making a big contribution to the realisation of national reunification.

He called for waging a powerful struggle to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country under the banner of great national unity by forming ASOK organisations in all places where compatriots live and uniting them.

A congratulatory speech was made by the chairman of the Uzbekistan National Culture Centre Committee.

The meeting heard an information about three years of activities of the ASOK and the work of the ASOK in the countries and regions of the CIS, an information about the organisation of an art festival scheduled for February next year, an information about activities during the third pan-national rally and discussed other matters.

Speeches were made.

The speakers expressed full support to the three principles of national reunification and the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and vowed to contribute to the accomplishment of the cause of national reunification by rallying more compatriots around the ASOK to suit its nature and mission.

Tokyo Meeting Supports Ties With Japan

SK2212050492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0410 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Tokyo December 18 (KNS-KCNA)—Japanese people of various strata met in Tokyo on December 16 to urge the normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

The meeting was attended by social-democratic members of the Diet including Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party and many other prominent figures of Japan.

In his speech, Makoto Tanabe criticized the Japanese Government for its passive attitude at the negotiation for the normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations, saying:

Now that the Cold War system has collapsed, it is necessary for the Japanese government to have a resolution for the normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

At the talks, the government raised the "problem of nuclear inspection." It must make clear what it sought by doing so.

It is an important demand of the current situation to preserve genuine peace in Asia. Everything will be solved when the Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations are normalized and the friendship between the two peoples is promoted.

Next year we will invigorate our efforts to continuously build up public opinion at home and reproach the passive attitude of the government at the diet.

In his speech, member of the house of councillors Wataru Kubo said: Intergovernmental talks have been held since the publication of the joint declaration of the three parties, but no progress has been made at the talks due to the insincere attitude of the Japanese Government. The Japanese Government must actively create a climate for the normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations for the sake of peace and stability in Asia and the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Hiroshi Wakabayashi, secretary general of the Japan Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, said in his speech: The movement for the promotion of friendship between Japan and Korea has long been waged as a mass movement. It is imperative to further develop friendship between the two peoples and preserve peace and stability in Asia.

In their speeches, member of the House of Councillors Sumiko Shimizu and other personages urged the Japanese Government to approach the intergovernmental negotiation from the position of making a sincere apology and compensation for the colonial rule and the postwar issues and called on the people of all walks of life to build up public opinion for the normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

An appeal for an early normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations and a letter of request to the Japanese prime minister were adopted at the meeting.

The letter of request says:

We strongly demand that the Japanese Government make 1993 a year of the normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

In the name of the entire participants, we demand that the Japanese Government promote the talks from the original position for the normalization of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations and normalize diplomatic relations between Japan and the DPRK at an early date in 1993.

Japanese Plan To Send Troops Overseas Assailed

SK2212112592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 22 Dec 92

["Japanese Imperialists' Southeast Asian Aggression and Colonial Rule During Pacific War"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—Associate Dr. Sin Tae-kuk in his article contributed to MINJU CHOSON today brands the aggression and colonial rule of the Japanese imperialists in Southeast Asian countries during the Pacific War as most brigandish, insidious and brutal.

He says:

The principle of the Japanese imperialists' rule over the Southeast Asian countries was mainly to thoroughly subjugate them and loot all resources, material and manpower, there.

One of the examples is that Japanese imperialism suppressed all the political forces and established a brutal military rule in the occupied areas.

In order to tighten the colonial rule over the occupied areas, the Japanese imperialists instituted a "Ministry of Greater East asia" in the government in November 1942 and let it intensify the supervision and control over the people in the occupied areas.

They disbanded all the political and semi-political organisations in these areas. They promulgated a decree banning all meetings, activities and propaganda related to the ruling system and organization in Indonesia on March 20, 1942 and issued an order banning political parties.

After occupying Manila, the Philippines, the Japanese imperialists issued an order banning all political activities. When the political parties had been dissolved, they organized paid politicians into a most heinous "new Philippine service corps" outdistancing the "3-A movement" in driving out the people in the "building of greater East Asia."

The Japanese imperialists savagely trampled upon history and culture of Southeast Asian countries and inhumanly insulted and maltreated their peoples without hesitation. They used as toilets or slaughter houses Buddhist temples which were considered holiest by the Myanmar people. They slapped local people across their face and committed barbaric sexual assaults on women.

Japan is madly hastening overseas troops dispatch again under the patronage of the U.S. imperialists. It must draw a lesson from its disgraceful defeat in the Pacific War and World War II and give up the policy of overseas expansion.

Daily Cautions Japan Over Building Nuclear Arms

SK2312053692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 23 Dec 92

["Japan's Conversion Into Nuclear Power Fraught With Actual Danger"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 (KCNA)—The Japanese Government recently endorsed a socalled "white paper" that makes it its policy to largely produce, introduce and stockpile plutonium. It envisages the building of large-scale reprocessing facilities for extracting plutonium in Japan and, at the same time, continuous shipment of plutonium into the country.

Noting that this fully reveals Japan's militarist posture and nuclear design, a NODONG SINMUN by-lined article today presents materials indicating that Japan's nuclear armament has reached a practical stage.

It says:

To meet the demand of the policy of converting Japan into a nuclear power, the development of nuclear arms and preparations for their production are being actively promoted overtly and covertly in Japan. It has laid nuclear material and technical foundations and stockpiled large quantities of nuclear materials allegedly for a "peaceful purpose".

The investment into the nuclear domain amounted to 1,730,000 dollars in 1954. But it skyrocketed to 360 million dollars in 1991 and there are more than 150 companies and 3,300 factories engaging in this domain.

Japan is annually extracting nuclear materials enough to manufacture 50 nuclear bombs of 20 kiloton class, while continuously introducing plutonium from abroad. It has a plan to extract, introduce and possess more than 100 tons of plutonium enough to make far more than ten thousand nuclear bombs of 20 kiloton class by 2010.

The Japanese "Self-Defense Forces" are being armed with various kinds of nuclear equipment capable of delivering and launching nuclear warheads and dropping nuclear bombs and depth bombs.

The article further says:

Working to arm itself with nuclear weapons and become a nuclear power, Japan intends to grab the position of a military power and realise its old dream of "the greater East Asia coprosperity sphere".

For the rulers of Japan, a defeated nation and the only victim to nuclear bombs, to seek nuclear armament will lead Japan to destruction.

The Japanese Government authorities must act with discretion, mindful of the lesson of history.

Chinese Trade Union Delegation Departs 19 Dec

SK2312080792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] A delegation of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions led by Zhang Dinghua, vice president of the federation and first secretary of its secretariat, returned home by train on 19 December.

The delegation was seen off at the Pyongyang Station by Kim Yong-nam, vice chairman of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, and (Zhang Zhengzai), minister and counselor of the PRC Embassy in our country.

During the period of its stay in our country, the delegation visited various places including Mangyongdae, the Tower of the Chuche Idea, the Taesongsan Martyrs Cemetery, the Great Study Hall of the People, the Pyongyang Subway, and the Tower of Friendship.

Daily Views South's Development of Nuclear Arms

SK2112105492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 21 Dec 92

["Nature of Nuclear War Maniacs Cannot Be Concealed"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 21 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with an article on the development of nuclear arms in South Korea which was exposed recently by the Central Committee of the National Democratic Front of South Korea.

The successive rulers of South Korea have promoted nuclear armament over the past two decades in secrecy, regarding it as a means to realize their wild ambition for "unification by prevailing over communism" with the backing of the U.S. imperialists. The nuclear armament has reached a very dangerous stage today, the article notes, and continues:

There are active in South Korea special technical groups for the development of nuclear arms including the "Institute of Defence Science" specialized in the designing of nuclear bombs and the development of ballistic missiles.

The South Korean authorities have already produced or imported and stockpiled in secrecy no small amount of high enriched uranium and plutonium for the manufacture of nuclear bombs.

Ten tons of plutonium can be extracted from the raw material stockpiled for the manufacture of nuclear bombs in South Korea. The amount is enough to manufacture 1,500 Nagasaki-type nuclear bombs.

The South Korean authorities can import high technology for the manufacture of nuclear bombs from the United States and promote in real earnest the home production of nuclear vehicles.

The fact shows that it is an urgent matter on the Korean peninsula to check the nuclear armament of South Korea.

The "suspicion of nuclear arms development" raised by the South Korean authorities against the North while developing nuclear arms and staging nuclear war exercises is a smoke-screen to conceal the U.S. moves to make South Korea a forward nuclear base and the nuclear armament of South Korea and a pretext to justify the nuclear war exercises.

It is obvious that the United States and the South Korean rulers intend to ignite a war against the North while making a fuss over "suspicion" and "delay."

The South Korean authorities must apologize to the nation for their criminal promotion of nuclear arms development, immediately stop it, accept our demand for overall inspection at once and take to the line of denuclearizing South Korea.

South's Election Disregards People's Desire

SK2212064092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1148 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Commentary by station commentator Yun Pyong-son: "No Other Result of the Election Can Be Expected"]

[Text] As has already been reported, the candidate of the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] Kim Yong-sam won the presidential election in South Korea on 18 December. This is what had been foreseen and what runs counter to the South Korean people's desire and aspiration.

It is an invariable aspiration of the South Korean people, who have been repressed by the military fascist autocracy, to end the military administration and establish a democratic government. South Koreans have stoutly struggled to realize the aspiration for many years.

However, the DLP and the South Korean ruling force led the election using government power and money regardless of the people's desire and demand, contrary to their words of "neutral cabinet" and "fair election," thus preventing the popular masses' intent from being reflected in the election.

This is not surprising. South Korea is a colony of the United States. It is very natural that the people's intent cannot be reflected in an election in South Korea which is ruled and interfered with by the U.S. imperialists.

As everyone knows, it is an unchanged U.S. secret intention to dominate the world by occupying South Korea as its permanent colonial military base.

After all, the DLP can prolong its power with the election as the United States intended. This shows that so long as the United States rules and interferes South Korea, no other result can be expected from elections.

Now the appearance of the so-called "civilian government" is being advertised in South Korea as if something will be achieved in the future.

However, as the "new government" has its root in the Sixth Republic, it cannot automatically become a civilian government just by sayinbg it is.

If it really wants to become a civilian government, it should not rely on foreign forces, an act of selling out the society and the nation, and should be independent. Also, it should abandon the fascist system and antireunification policy established by the dictatorial government and aspire to democracy and reunification of the fatherland. This is what the South Korean people want and what all the people demand.

Independence, democracy, and reunification are aspirations of all the South Korean people.

The South Korean people will wage the resolute struggle against those who block the advance of history in the future, as they did in the past, and will realize their aspirations without fail.

Daily Says Team Spirit Exercise Impedes Progress

SK2012083592 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0812 GMT 20 Dec 92

["Projected Resumption of 'Team Spirit' Hampers Progress of Inter-Korean Dialogue"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 20 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities' scheme to stage the "Team Spirit" joint military manoeuvres as planned in defiance of our repeated demand for the revocation of their decision to resume them is intended to bring the situation of the Korean peninsula back to the original point of confrontation and make it impossible to open North-South dialogues, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

Whether they cancel the decision to resume the "Team Spirit", or not, is the key point on which the destiny of the North-South dialogue is staked, the article notes, and stresses:

The "Team Spirit" is a preliminary war and a test nuclear war aimed at a surprise forestalling attack and aggression on the DPRK. It is based on the "offensive strategy" of the United States, a "new war strategy", and its main purpose is a surprise attack on the DPRK.

It is well illustrated by the scope and composition of the Armed Forces and military equipment mobilized in the "Team Spirit" and the content of the manoeuvres.

The decision to start again the "Team Spirit" which was taken by the South Korean authorities together with the United States is a wanton violation of the North-South agreement and a perfidy to the North.

The destiny of North-South dialogue entirely depends on the attitude of the South Korean authorities. If they are interested in the progress of North-South dialogue, they must withdraw the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" at once.

Military Reports U.S.-ROK Air Exercises

SK2212111692 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1025 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists brought formations of fighter-bombers and pursuit-assault planes from Japan and U.S. Pacific bases and staged exercises of saturation bombing raids on targets in the strategic depths of the northern half of Korea in the skies above Anmyon and Oeyon islets and Yoju of South Korea on December 18 and 19, according to military sources.

More than 350 warplanes of different types belonging to the U.S. Airforce present in South Korea and the puppet airforce joined them, with an EH-60 electronic warfare helicopter flying above Paju, Tongduchon and Yonchon. It was a dangerous play with fire aimed at a surprise bombing after confusing the North's radars with an overall electronic jamming "in case of emergency".

In a separate action, on December 19 and 20, motorized infantry units of the South Korean puppet army staged a ground attack exercise against the North in Cholwon and Yonchon counties with the support of tanks and artillery and a flying corps.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppets committed air espionage with the mobilization of reconnaissance planes of different types.

On December 21, a Kadena-based E-3 early warning plane flew into the sky above South Korea and commanded flying corps in the air war exercises while committing intensive aerial photographing and electronic reconnaissance on targets of the northern half of Korea.

Dailies Blame South for Talks 'Frustration'

SK2212090792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0540 GMT 22 Dec 92

["South Side Denounced for Suspension of Inter-Korean High-Level Talks"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities are entirely to blame for the frustration of the ninth North-South high-level talks which were scheduled to begin in Seoul from December 21 and failure of the implementation of the North-South agreement declared papers here today.

Such unpleasant thing as the suspension of the talks has been caused by the South Korean authorities who have refused to cancel the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvres against the North and spoiled the atmosphere of dialogue while increasing tension, a NODONG SINMUN analyst says and goes on.

The "Team Spirit" is a preliminary war and a test nuclear war intended to threaten the North with strength and invade it.

When a dialogue partner, breaking faith with the other, stage military exercises against it in league with outside force, aggravating the situation, it is impossible to have dialogue or expect success from it.

We have strongly condemned the decision to resume the "Team Spirit" next year together with the United States and repeatedly demanded its revocation, setting the deadline. This was motivated by a patriotic stand to save dialogue from the danger at any cost, ensure a smooth implementation of the agreement and relieve the fellow countrymen from possible nuclear holocaust.

The South Korean authorities, however, are going ahead with the preparations for the nuclear war game under unreasonable pretexts. This apparently reveals their intention to bring North-South dialogue to a rupture and stop the implementation of the agreement and is a declaration of confrontation with the North.

However, the South Korean authorities, in a bid to evade the responsibility for the suspension of the talks, are claiming that the "Team Spirit," being a "defensive exercise", has nothing to do with dialogue and that the North has "delayed nuclear inspection".

The South side, far from fulfilling its obligation stipulated in the agreement, set the problem of "nuclear inspection" as preconditions for the revocation of the decision to resume the "Team Spirit". This is a far-fetched argument contrary to the agreement.

With nothing can the South side evade the blame for freezing the North-South high-level talks by refusing to cancel the decision regarding the resumption of the joint military exercises.

A MINJU CHOSON analyst says that if the South Korean authorities have the willingness, if only a little, to carry the North-South agreement into effect, they must immediately stop anti-national, anti-dialogue acts and unconditionally withdraw the decision to start again the "Team Spirit."

Daily States 'Imperialism' Disrupts Peace

SK2212112092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038 GMT 22 Dec 92

["Modern Imperialism Is Harasser of Peace"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—Modern imperialism is the vicious harasser of peace and, without the struggle against it, it is impossible to meet the aspirations and demands of the progressive peoples of the world, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

After the Cold War ended, the modern imperialists have become all the more arrogant, openly seeking their wild ambition for world supremacy, the paper says, and continues:

The structure of confrontation between the two superpowers collapsed with the dissolution of the Soviet Union, leaving the United States the sole superpower in the world.

The modern imperialists are running about like a headless chicken, viewing such changes as the best opportunity for satisfying their desire for world supremacy.

The method employed by modern imperialism in seizing control over the world is still domination and subjugation by strength.

Imperialism is resorting to the policy of strength in a more crafty and sinister way than in the Cold War era. It uses "detente", "disarmament" and the like as a camouflage for its policy of strength.

Imperialist warmongers have raised it as the primary task of "regional strategy" after the Cold War to control our Republic by strength with outcries over "real threat".

They are putting spurs to the modernisation of the puppet army while qualitatively reinforcing the U.S. forces occupying South Korea by continuously introducing new military equipment and latest weapons.

The schemings of modern imperialism to control the world by strength is an anachronistic act against the current trend toward detente and peace.

The more viciouzs the schemings of modern imperialism, the stronger the resistance of the world's progressive people.

Legislators Meet Italian Counterparts in Rome

SK2112051892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0431 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 21 (KCNA)—Talks were held between delegations of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the Chamber of Deputies of Italy in Rome on December 16.

Present on the Korean side were Kim Yong-sun, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and chairman of the commission, and an official concerned and on the opposite side were Antonio Cariglia, chairman of the Italian Social Democratic Party and president of the commission, and an official concerned.

It was agreed at the talks that the two parliaments should make joint efforts for the development of friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Kim Yong-sun Meets With Italian Communists

SK2312114592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1042 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 (KCNA)—Talks was held in Rome on December 17 between delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the Italian Communist Reformative Party.

Present at the talks on the Korean side were Kim Yong-sun, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], WPK who is heading the delegation, and members of the delegation and on the opposite side were Serdjo Garavini, general secretary and head of the delegation and the international secretary of the Italian Communist Reformative Party.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Yugoslav Party Official Supports Pyongyang Decree

SK2312114792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1040 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 (KCNA)—Momcilo Jokic, organizational secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Yugoslav Communist Party, speaking in Kragujevac County on December 16, said his party supports the Pyongyang declaration and would make all efforts for the implementation of the declaration.

Recalling the adoption of the declaration in Pyongyang in April this year, he emphasized that the declaration, signed by many communist and workers' parties of the world including the Yugoslav Communist Party, clearly indicates the program and principles of building socialism.

Daily Marks Anniversary of Ties With Cyprus

SK2312102892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 23 Dec 92

["1st Anniversary of Establishment of Korea-Cyprus Diplomatic Relations"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today in a by-lined article says that the Korean people extend friendly greetings to the Cypriot people on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Cyprus.

The Korean people are rejoiced over the success attained by the Cypriot people in the work to consolidate the political independence of the country after its independence and achieve social progress and prosperity, the article says, stressing:

The Korean people will strive to further develop friendship with the Cypriot people.

PRC, Swiss, Cuban Visitors Arrive 19 Dec

SK2012083392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0807 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 20 (KCNA)—A recreation group of officials of the Communist Party of China led by Sha Jiansun, deputy director of the Party History Research Centre of the CPC Central Committee, and a delegation of the SWISS MILITARY REVIEW, the organ of the Swiss Officers Association, headed by Hans Bachofner, its editor-in-chief, arrived here Saturday.

Angel Martinez Seoane, manager of the Chollima shipbuilding yard of Cuba, arrived here Friday to participate in the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Korean Committee for Solidarity With Cuba.

Cuba-Korea Solidarity Group Marks Anniversary

SK2212055392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0513 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—A meeting was held here Monday to mark the 30th anniversary of the formation of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee.

Addressing the meeting, Chong Song-nam, chairman of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee, said that the fraternal bonds between the two peoples hale been expanded and developed for 30 years after the formation of the committee.

No matter how desperately the imperialists may try, the Cuban people, united around the Communist Party of Cuba headed by Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, are firmly defending the sovereignty and dignity of the country, upholding the slogan "let us defend motherland, revolution and socialism" in accordance with the strategy of a "special period of peace time", he said, and pointed out:

Adoption of a resolution on putting an end to economic, trade and financial blockade against Cuba at the recent U.N. General Assembly session is a victory of Cuba and, at the same time, a victory of international solidarity with Cuba. The Korean people fully support and encourage the Cuban people in their struggle and strongly denounce the anti-Cuba moves of the United States.

He wished the Cuban people greater success in the efforts to build socialism and defend the motherland in response to the decisions of the 4th Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega spoke next.

He expressed thanks to the Korea-Cuba solidarity committee for support and solidarity to the Cuban people for 30 years and said that the Cuban people would remember forever cooperation and assistance from the Korean people.

The bonds of friendship and solidarity between the two countries have further consolidated since the DPRK's visit of Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz and his historic meeting with Comrade President Kim Il-song, he noted, and added:

The Cuban people wish great success to the struggle of the industrious and devoted Korean people who are victoriously pushing ahead with socialist construction, holding in high esteem the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Reaffirming the invariable support of the Cuban people to the Korean people's struggle to reunify the country, he condemned the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities' obstructing the implementation of the North-South agreement, putting pressure on the DPRK with a groundless rumor about "nuclear development" and scheming to resume the offensive and aggressive "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

Vice-Premier Chang Chol ws present at the meeting.

The participant saw a Korean feture film.

Holds Meeting 23 Dec

SK2312120492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1107 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 (KCNA)—A meeting of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee and a friendship gathering took place here today on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the formation of the committee.

Present there were Chong Song-nam, chairman of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee, and other officials concerned, Cuban Ambassador to Korea Juan Jose Leon Vega and his embassy officials and the director of the Chollima shipyard in Cuba staying in Korea.

The meeting reviewed the activities conducted by the committee this year to expose and denounce the U.S. imperialists' heinous anti-Cuba moves and strengthen militant unity and friendship with the heroic Cuban people who are invariably advancing along the road of anti-imperialist independence and socialism.

The participants were also informed of activities conducted by the Cuban committee for supporting Korea's reunification over the last one year to strengthen support and solidarity for the Korean people's cause of justice.

An action program of the Korea-Cuba Solidarity Committee for next year was discussed at the meeting.

Cultural Exchange Program Signed With Pakistan

SK2312110592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 23 (KCNA)—A 1993-94 intergovernmental plan of cultural exchange between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was signed in Islamabad on December 17.

It was signed by Choe Su-il, DPRK ambassador E.P. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] to Pakistan, and Omar Khan Afridi, secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Pakistan, on behalf of their governments.

KCNA Interviews President of Mali

SK2212052692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konare, president and head of state of the Republic of Mali, who had paid an official goodwill visit to Korea at the invitation of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was interviewed by a KCNA reporter Monday prior to his departure from Pyongyang at the end of his successful visit to Korea.

At the interview His Excellency Alpha Oumar Konare said that he had visited Korea this time by flying thousands of, tens of thousands of kilometres and further deepened the understanding and friendship toward Korea.

He went on to say:

Mali was the first to establish friendly relations with Korea in Africa. The tree of friendship which struck its roots between the two peoples is even more significant because it was planted and nursed by the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song and President Modibo Keita, father of the independence of Mali.

This friendship provided by the leaders of our two countries is not a simple friendship but a militant friendship and it is solid and unbreakable as it reflects the desire of the two peoples.

Our friendly relations are characterized by the fact that they have always been strong in any storm and stress for the last 30 odd years and remain unchanged in all circumstances. Our friendship has developed steadily whether in rain or shine and despite turns and twists.

The purpose of my visit to Korea as president of the Third Republic of Mali was to introduce our Mali to your people, but its main objective was to see your country with my own eyes and learn from it.

I have been accorded a cordial hospitality in Korea as a genuine friend and brother and a true comrade.

While staying in Korea I have received particular and meticulous care shown by the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song.

He had his 80th birthday this year. Despite his advanced age of 80 his excellency president is full of vigor and very robust. He is well informed of every detail of international problems and the world situation.

When I was received by the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song I was convinced that Comrade Kim Il-song is a man who always likes to make a revolution, who is optimistic in all circumstances and who has strong determination at all times.

We have renewed our resolution to boost the friendship between our two countries.

Respected His Excellency President Kim Il-song expressed his will to further develop the friendship and cooperation between the two countries although international circumstances are very complicated at the moment. For this, the relations between our two countries will be even brighter.

Through my visit to your country I have realized that the Korean people are a people who struggle, like labor and believe in their own strength. This is the biggest experience I have got and have come to the conclusion that herein lies one of the secrets of Korea's progress.

I think that the fundamental principle of the chuche idea founded by the great leader His Excellency President Kim Il-song is the idea that the people should believe in their own strength and hew out their destiny.

I consider that this chuche idea is a guiding ideology for all the peoples who want to improve their position.

No force on earth can match man's strength.

Elaborating on the development of the Non-Aligned Movement, Malian president had this to say:

It is one of the most important questions at present to strengthen the nam and unity among its member countries, I think. The unity of the developing countries, the countries of the South and the poor countries alone can save our peoples from poverty. The logic of "money is everything" and "profit is top priority" brings tragedy to the popular masses. That is why it is imperative to strengthen solidarity and unity among developing countries. To this end, the people of each country should struggle to defend their sovereignty, identity and independence. Otherwise, forces to dominate over us will tear us asunder. Accordingly, I would like to appeal here "let the countries of the South join hands each other and unite!"

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song stressed long ago that the non-aligned countries, the countries of the South, should unfailingly unite and this is an essential requirement of the times.

I want to stress his words are very correct and I fully agree with him.

This idea of the great leader guides us to develop the nation's economy, prevent waste in the country, meet needs of the popular masses, prevent split and achieve its stability.

The idea makes it possible to prevent division among peoples and tribes and promote trust among them. It also leads our non-alignd countries to exchange experiences each other. They have a little amount of capital but have instead resources and manpower. This idea, after all, enables us to free ourselves from the idea of depending on money. Mali and Korea aspire after unity. We of Mali will further strengthen friendship with Korea by consolidating the foundation of its independence in the future. We will reinforce the foundation of the nation's independence by developing production in Mali and reflecting the opinion of the masses. We have learned from Korea the experience in such field.

Stressing that his Korean visit this time served the purpose of adding one more pedestal to the tower of Mali-Korea friendship, his excellency president went on to say:

I have seen the looks of daily developing Korea while in Korea.

I have seen the Korean people staunchly struggling with high awareness, braving difficulties. I have come to know the great leaders who give wise guidance, confident of future.

I have felt that the Korean people are an independent and militant people under the leadership of the great leaders.

I am confident that the Korean people are sure to triumph as there is the wise leadership of His Excellency President Kim Il-song and His Excellency Kim Chong-il who fully reflect the will of the people.

The friendship between our two countries has a long history and we wish this friendship will last for ever.

The intimacy between the great his excellency president and me will be eternal and I will visit your country again in the future.

Comrade Kim Il-song is not only a great man of Korea but a great man of Africa and of Mali.

We will do all we can to steadily strengthen and develop the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Mali is now in a difficult situation.

Korea is facing two big challenges. In this struggle we should advance together.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Korean people for the warm hospitality accorded to me during my stay in your country.

In particular, I would like to manifest once again my sincerest thanks to the great His Excellency President Kim Il-song for inviting me to visit Korea.

I most wholeheartedly wish the great His Excellency President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il good health and long life and great success in their work.

And I heartily wish the Korean people greater success in the struggle for the building of socialism and national reunification.

Malian President Sends Message to Kim Il-song

SK2212055792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0528 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 22 (KCNA)—Alpha Oumar Konare, president and head of state of the Republic of Mali, sent a message of thanks to President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Repubic of Korea, on leaving Korea Monday after his official and goodwill visit.

Extending his wholehearted thanks to President Kim Il-song for the warm hospitality accorded him during his stay in Korea, the president affirms in the message that he will take all efforts to further conslidate the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries which have been for more than 30 years.

Choe Tae-pok Addresses Intellectuals' Forum

SK1812050092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1215 GMT 9 Dec 92

[Speech by Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Workers Party of Korea, WPK, Central Committee at the Korean intellectuals' meeting held at the 8 February Hall of Culture in Pyongyang on 9 December—recorded]

[Text] Comrades: Under the circumstances in which all the fellow countrymen nationwide are vigorously launching the grand march movement of the 1990's in a bid to glorify the socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses under the party's leadership and in which they are indefatigably struggling to expedite the independent reunification of the country, we are holding the Korean intellectuals' meeting.

Even though the imperialists and reactionaries are further intensifying the maneuvers against socialism and our Republic, our revolution has constantly developed victoriously. At a time when a brighter prospect is opened up before our revolution, it is very meaningful to hold the Korean intellectuals' meeting. [applause]

The party Central Committee sent a congratulatory message to the Korean intellectuals' meeting, warmly congratulating all participants and intellectuals throughout the country and clearly indicating the militant task facing our intellectuals at present. This is a great glory to all participants and intellectuals throughout the country. [applause]

The Korean intellectuals' meeting is a significant meeting, arranged by our party which has always attached great importance to intellectuals' role in struggle for revolution and construction and which has brilliantly resolved the issue concerning intellectuals. [applause]

Proceeding from a new demand for developing the revolution and from the prevailing situation, our party held the Korean intellectuals' meeting to enhance intellectuals' role in revolution and construction and to lead them to brilliantly carry out their honorable mission and duty assigned before the party, the revolution, the fatherland, and the people. [applause]

Many meetings for the various fields of science and culture have been held in our country. However, it is the first time for representatives of all intellectuals of ideological and cultural fronts and of scientific and technological fronts across the country to get together to attend the meeting.

The Korean intellectuals' meeting is the great historic meeting of our country's intellectuals who mean the pen inscribed in the logo of the WPK. The WPK, the great chuche-oriented party, includes intellectuals together with workers and peasants. The Korean intellectuals' meeting will be brilliantly cherished in the history of our party's building and our people's socialist construction. [applause]

The Korean intellectuals' meeting, which is held amid the great concern and expectation of all the party and all the people, will be a momentous motive, which vigorously brings into full play the vitality and validity of our party's policy for intellectuals; demonstrates the revolutionary spirit and noble trait of our country's intellectuals who vigorously advance along the road to the socialism without the slightest faltering even under today's complicated situation; and arouses intellectuals across the country into struggle to defend, safeguard, and glorify the socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses while upholding the party's leadership. [applause]

By the authority of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau, I will make a report at the Korean intellectuals' meeting.

Comrades:

Many years have passed since our party's historical root was taken and the beginning of the Korean revolution was marked.

The entire course, in which the Korean revolution has been pioneered and developed under the banner of the chuche idea, has been a glorious road, along which the great victory and great change have been effected in struggle for national sovereignty and the growth and development of the country. In addition, the entire course has been a proud road along which a basic change has been effected in the position of our country's intellectuals and their fates have been brilliantly pioneered.

The Korean intellectuals have carried out the really sacred and fruitful struggle for sovereignty, independence, and socialism throughout the whole course of our revolution, under the leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and under the banner of the WPK. [applause]

The road of our revolution was not plain. There were innumerable trials and hardships on it. The Korean revolution had to confront the aggressive force of vicious imperialists from its first stage. After the liberation of the fatherland from the Japanese imperialists, it had to open the way of building a new society in a new tragedy of the national division and in a direct confrontation against the U.S. imperialists, ringleaders of world imperialism.

Imperialist reactionaries, including the U.S. imperialists, have conducted various criminal maneuvers to bar our nation from making an independent development from the beginning of our revolution and to destroy the Korean revolution. However, our people neither were afraid of any of their enemies nor yielded under any hardships or trials.

The Korean intellectuals, with our heroic people, have bravely overcome many severe trials and hardships on the road of the revolution under the party's leadership, with the firm faith that they have nothing to be afraid of as long as they have the great leader, the great party, and the invincible rank of our revolution that is firmly united around the party and the leader. During this course, they have grown up as a reliable leading unit of the Korean revolution and as resolute protectors and thorough consummators of the socialist cause.

As the working class and working popular masses' revolutionary struggle for independence shows, intellectuals as well as workers and farmers take important positions and play significant roles in the social and historic movement and revolutionary movement, as persons in charge of the revolution.

However, this does not mean that intellectuals can fulfill their duties and roles as independent main forces of the revolution by themselves. Intellectuals can be a part of the independent main forces of the revolution and can fulfill their duties in the revolutionary struggle and construction without difficulty only under the correct leadership of the working class party and the leader.

The Korean intellectuals, who had been forced to undergo all humiliations, as colonial intellectuals, with no one to either believe or rely on in the past, became masters of their destinies and dauntless pillars of the country and society, finally putting the period of painful days to an end by upholding the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, a peerless patriot, as their great leader.

The course of formation, growing, and development of the rank of intellectuals in our country is directly linked with the history of the extraordinary and seasoned leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party, and related with the victorious course of the Korean revolution. [applause]

Intellectuals' roles in the revolutionary struggle and in the construction of a new society as well as their destinies are totally dependent on what policy the working class party sets up and implements for intellectuals.

Our party set up a unique policy for intellectuals based on a scientific analysis of intellectuals' positions and roles in the revolution and construction, and has thoroughly implemented it.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Recognizing intellectuals as a basic part of our revolutionary forces from the beginning of the construction of a new society, we have taken a correct policy for intellectuals to give full play to their creative enthusiasm and talents by indoctrinating them in a revolutionary way. Also we have vigorously carried out the struggle to intellectualize the entire society as well as the struggle to revolutionize and imbue with the working-class spirit the entire society for socialist construction.

Our party's policy for intellectuals considers the intellectuals as well as workers and farmers to be a driving force of the revolution and components of the working class party. Its aim is an ultimate solution of problems concerning intellectuals by revolutionarily indoctrinating the intellectuals so as to make them devotedly struggle for the party, the revolution, the fatherland, and the people; by constantly increasing the rank of intellectuals; and by elevating all social members' cultural and technological knowledge level up to that of the intellectuals.

Our party's intellectuals policy, predicated by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, is clearly reflected by our party's emblem engraved with a brush standing for intellectuals as well as a hammer and a sickle standing for workers and farmers.

When our party was established, some people who were captivated by existing intellectuals' theories opposed engraving a brush in the party's emblem, saying they had never seen a brush inscribed in a sacred banner of working class party in the history of the communist movement.

However, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song took an unprecedented, historic action to engrave a brush as well as a hammer and a sickle in our party's emblem, standing on a firm chuche-oriented position and without being tied to existing theories and experience. [applause]

This action clearly reflects the greatness of the leadership of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who opened a new way for newly elucidating intellectuals' positions and roles in the revolution and construction in accordance with the historic conditions of our age, in which the popular masses in a broad range became masters of their destinies, and for building the working class party as a mass-centered party without distinction of progressive elements in all classes and strata of the working people. [applause]

Our party's policy, which regards intellectuals as a basic revolutionary force and as components of the party and aims to bring them up to be enthusiastic communist revolutionaries by uniting them on the side of revolution, is the most scientific and revolutionary people-oriented policy that embodies the chuche principle to consider the popular masses as masters of the revolution and to rely on their strength.

In the past, people thought relations among social classes were ruled and reflected by objective economic relations because they viewed the course of social development just in line with the method of production.

Therefore, intellectuals were not able to establish their own independent class as a social stratum composed of people from various classes, but were recognized as middle class people who serve various classes with their professional knowledge and technology.

Of course, some stages of social development had certain conditions under which people regarded intellectuals as a middle class floating between the ruling classes and the ruled classes. However, with this viewpoint one can neither correctly look into the nature of intellectuals in accordance with the historic realities, nor make the intellectuals truly participate in the revolution and construction by uniting them on the side of revolution. Also, one cannot guide them to the road of socialism, communism, with such a viewpoint.

Whether intellectuals can fight on the side of revolution is not dependent on their social class positions but dependent on their ideology. People's thoughts and behaviors are ruled by ideology.

When they realize justice and truth and agree to them, intellectuals even from the bourgeois class fight on the side of revolution, opposing things old and reactionary and desiring things new and progressive.

In particular, intellectuals in a colonial nation come to have an anti-imperialist, democratic revolutionary spirit opposing the imperialists and their puppets because they suffer a harsh national humiliation and oppression.

Unlike the ruling class in capitalist society, which uses its political and economic privileges to exploit and suppress people, intellectuals are workers who serve society by doing mental labor with knowledge and skills.

Physical labor which workers and peasants do in various fields of production in society and mental labor which intellectuals do in science, education, public health, culture and arts, mass media, publications, and various other professional fields are different in view of forms of labor. However, they are no different in view of the fact that both are beneficial labor that contributes to social development.

Labor that contributes to social development, whether it is mental or physical, is all valuable creative labor which the popular masses, the main forces of history, must do. Because they are the main forces of history, the popular masses must take charge of not only the work of remaking the nature to create material wealth but also the work of social reform and human remodeling and the work of creating mankind's mental and cultural wealth. They must also take charge of all forms of social labor in all fields of social lives. This means that not only workers who do physical labor but also workers who do mental labor are part of the main forces of history and the main forces of the revolution.

Intellectuals who do not exploit or suppress other people and who serve society by doing sincere labor are no different from workers and peasants in view of their aspirations to live independently.

The policy of considering intellectuals to be part of the main forces of the revolution and positively educating and reforming them, thus raising them into enthusiastic communist revolutionaries, is a great policy that can only be presented by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who has elucidated the profound philosophical truth that only the popular masses are the main forces of history and that revolutionaries must always believe in people and rely on their strength and who has presented this as the noblest political ideal. [applause]

Our party's policy on intellectuals is creative and great in that it scientifically elucidated the nature of intellectuals for the first time in history and presented ways to endlessly strengthen their positions and roles in revolution and construction. [applause]

The policy on intellectuals presented by respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has been brilliantly implemented at each stage of the development of our revolution. As a result, it has brought about great results. The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song's great policy, which considers intellectuals to be part of the main forces of the revolution and which calls for making them play revolutionary and positive roles, displayed its great strength even at the time when he started cultivating the chuche revolutionary cause.

When he started the revolutionary struggle, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song profoundly perceived the fate and characteristics of colonial intellectuals, made them basic forces of the Korean revolution, and strongly rallied the patriotic youth and students and progressive intellectuals around the revolutionary ranks. When the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song founded the Down-With-Imperialism Union, the first genuine communist revolutionary organization in our country; the Communist Youth League of Korea, the union's successor organization; and the Comrade Building Association [konsoltongjisa], the first party organization, he rallied not only hot-blooded young people, who were workers and peasants, but also patriotic youth and students and progressive intellectuals in the first ranks of those organizations and expanded and strengthened the chuche-oriented forces of the Korean revolution based on those people.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song had great trust in man—who, in the days of arduousness when he organized the first chuche ranks in our revolution, warmly embraced the young communists in his bosom with his significant theme to never forget the pledge for the revolution, walked a long and rugged road despite the potential danger against his personal security along the way worried about the serious illness of an intellectual and consoled and encouraged him. Because he had such sublime comradely love and fidelity, our revolution has been able to firmly rally the numerous progressive intellectuals, as well as the forerunning fighters of the workers and peasants, into its ranks since its pioneering period and to make its way through the untrodden rugged road of the revolution.

In these very days of struggle, the tradition of wholehearted unity based on the inseparable bonds of kinship between the leader and the fighters, between the leader and the intellectuals, took root deep in our country.

Based on his noble achievement and experience of rallying the young communists and forming a strong main force of the Korean revolution during the period of the arduous anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song wisely led our party's struggle for the solution of the problem of intellectuals after the liberation. The task of the working-class party for the solution of the problem of intellectuals in the initial period of building a new society was, above all, to correctly solve the old intellectuals who served the old society. Immediately after the liberation, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song called upon the people to contribute to building the new fatherland, those who had strength offering their strength, those who had knowledge offering their knowledge, and those who had money offering their money. He then set out himself to find the old intellectuals who were dispersed in various places one by one and made all of them devote their knowledge and technology to the country and the people.

In the difficult days of building a new society, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song resolutely crushed the maneuvers of the antiparty and counterrevolutionary factional elements who attempted to separate the intellectuals from the party and weaken the force of our revolution, resolutely adhered to and implemented his original intellectuals policy, and strengthened and developed our party into invincible revolutionary ranks in which the workers, peasants, and intellectuals were firmly united in one mind and will.

In other countries in the past, the old intellectuals from the bourgeois class who served the old society fled overseas turning away from the fatherland and the people or followed the road of counterrevolution after the revolution won victory. However, in our country, because of the extraordinary capacity of embrace and original policy of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the old intellectuals entrusted their fate to the party without hesitation and struggled in firm unity with the popular masses, following the party. Even numerous intellectuals from South Korea crossed the death line to the bosom of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song repelling all sorts of threats, blackmail, and appeasement of the enemy. Thanks to the absolute and infinitely great trust and warm care of the party and the leader, the old intellectuals of our country were able to struggle to build a new fatherland shoulder to shoulder with the workers and peasants and sharing joy and sorrow with them upholding the party without the slightest perturbation after the liberation when everything was scarce in the face of enormous difficulties. They actively participated in the land reform and other democratic reforms and contributed greatly to laying a firm foundation for the building of a democratic independent sovereign state. [applause]

Our party made great efforts to embrace the old intellectuals and actively indoctrinate and remake them, while massively bringing up the new intellectuals from the working people. The working-class party ought to make utmost efforts to bring up massive numbers of new intellectuals from the working people in conformity with the demand of building a new society after securing sovereignty.

Furthermore, it was a very urgent problem to bring up an army of intellectuals from the working people in our country which lacked its own base of intellectuals because of the Japanese imperialists' maneuvers to keep the Korean people in ignorance. In the days following the liberation, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forth the training of national cadres and the education of the younger generation as the key problem determining the fate of the country and the rise and fall of the nation, and wisely exercised his leadership so that priority was given to the work of bringing up the new intellectuals from the working people, over all other work, overcoming all difficulties.

The historic cause of raising new intellectuals, who were formerly working people, in our country started with the work of opening the people's first university. The work of building the people's first university on almost barren land right after the national liberation and raising national cadres was a very difficult struggle.

To solve the problem of teachers, an urgent issue in founding the university, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song mobilized all the scholars in the northern half, sent functionaries even to South Korea to take scientists and educators along with them, and founded the people's first university, along with the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School, with patriotic rice which peasants donated with sincerity. In this way, he opened the new chapter of the noble cause of raising new intellectuals, who formerly were working people, in our country. [applause]

Based on this first university, which the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song founded, our party continuously built educational institutes across the country for the education of the posterity and national cadres and raised national cadres on a large scale.

Even during the Fatherland Liberation War, which determines the country's destiny, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song relocated universities and other educational institutes and scientific research institutes to safe areas; recalled numerous young people from the front and raised them as scientists and technicians; and personally visited universities and institutes for scientific education, which had been relocated to remote mountainous areas, despite the smoke of cannon; met with teachers, scientists, and university students who had returned from the front; mapped out plans to win victory in the war; and delivered programmatic speeches that would serve as guidelines in studying and life.

The work of raising national cadres and educating the posterity did not stop even for a moment despite the flames of war, fierce and miserable beyond comparison. This marvelous fact was a historic miracle of our era that was possible only because of the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who, with a far-sighted vision of the future of the fatherland and the revolution, endlessly heightens the popular masses' independence and creativity and solves all the problems in revolution and construction. [applause]

Amid the stern trial of war which tests how prepared people are ideologically and spiritually, the justness and vitality of our party's policy on intellectuals have all been demonstrated. Our intellectuals who, after the liberation, had become workers for building a new society in the bosom of their fatherland for the first time and enjoyed worthwhile lives as revolutionary intellectuals, unanimously rose up in the popular sacred war after realizing that their moral obligation is to repay, with their life, the favors of the great leader, who made them masters of the country and gave them opportunities to fully display all of their talents and wisdom for the people. Numerous intellectuals of ours took guns instead of pens and heroically fought during the days of fierce war. Despite the possibility of being sacrificed, they went down to the frontline along the Naktong River along with the heroic People's Army ranks and carried out vigorous political work and positive propaganda and artistic activities. And, during the temporary strategic retreat, they overcame all hardships, broke through the enemy seizes, crossed rugged mountains and peaks, and, finally, returned to the party Central Committee. This was possible because of our intellectuals' firm belief in and loyalty to the leader [suryong] and the fatherland. [applause]

During the arduous postwar period of socialist revolution and socialist construction, our party also gave top priority to raising a large group of national intellectuals and beefing up their roles. Under the difficult postwar conditions in which everything was destroyed in war and in which many things were scarce, our party tightened its belt and built schools on ruins first, gave priority to educating national cadres and the posterity, and allocated massive funds and necessary facilities and materials for the development of science and technology and national culture in the country.

During the difficult period of postwar reconstruction, socialist revolution, and socialist construction, our intellectuals were always loyal to the call of the party and the leader and were resolute in carrying out the party's policy. While keeping firm in their mind the party's militant call, they objected to dogmatism and flunkeyism in all fields and positively participated in struggle to establish chuche. By bringing into full play the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, they performed brilliant exploits in establishing the strong socialist country on this land. [applause]

Even under the acute situation in which revisionism appeared internationally, in which the communist movement was forced to experience great tribulations, in which the U.S. imperialists and their stooges intensified regional maneuvers, and in which the factionalists against the party and the revolution challenged the party by taking advantage of their regional maneuvers, our intellectuals resolutely defended and safeguarded the party Central Committee headed by the respected and believed Comrade Kim Il-song politically, ideologically, and with their own lives. Upholding our party's chuche-oriented revolutionary line and policy, they devoted all wisdom and energy to the victory of the socialist revolution and to the growth and development of the fatherland. Our intellectuals' warm loyalty and struggle achievements, which were brilliantly recorded in the history of our people's revolution, have been proudly handed down. [applause]

Under the new historical circumstances in which the socialist revolution has won a victory and in which the socialist system has been established in our country, the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song put forward the policy of making all intellectuals revolutionary, of assimilating them into the working class, and of assimilating all members of society into the intelligentsia. He has wisely led the struggle to realize the policy.

Accordingly, as the socialist system has been established and the socialist construction has been promoted, the issue concerning intellectuals has been an issue which differs from the issue of previous eras.

In essence, the issue concerning intellectuals in socialist communist construction is the issue of rendering intellectuals to be genuine masters of society by remolding intellectuals in a communist way. In addition, the issue concerning intellectuals is the issue of removing the social stratum called intellectuals by enhancing the cultural and technological level of all members of society into the level of intellectuals.

The issue of making intellectuals revolutionary and assimilating them into the working class is precisely the issue which should be primarily resolved in order to completely remove all antiquated ideology remaining in their minds and in order to lead them to discharge their missions as the intellectuals of the working class.

The establishment of the socialist system may remove the social and economic sources in which an antiquated and reactionary ideology comes into being. However, the establishment of the socialist system itself cannot bring forth the change of the people's ideology and consciousness. Ideology and consciousness, which represent the people's demand and interests, are relatively firm. Therefore, because the socialist system is established, the antiquated ideology remaining in the people's brain cannot entirely be removed, nor can the people be remolded into the communist-type people.

The people think that when the socialist system is established, they can automatically have the socialist ideology. However, if the ideological remolding work is ignored, the antiquated ideology can revive in socialist society.

Furthermore, owing to their life style and professional characteristics, intellectuals have less opportunity than others to temper themselves in a revolutionary manner and they can be greatly affected by the antiquated ideology. Thus, they should make more efforts than anyone else to remold ideology. They should properly do the work of making themselves revolutionary and assimilating themselves into the working class.

Under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, to make intellectuals revolutionary and assimilate them into the working class, our party has strengthened ideological indoctrination and organizational life among intellectuals. Our party has led intellectuals to constantly temper themselves through revolutionary practices.

Our party's policy on (?taking up) the brush in revolution and construction, on respecting intellectuals, and on bringing them up to be earnest communists has been brilliantly embodied in worthwhile struggle to model the whole society on the chuche idea under our party Central Committee's correct leadership. [applause]

In keeping with the demands of the reality in which our revolution is developing to a higher level, that the whole society should be imbued with the chuche idea, our party has further developed and enriched the chuche-oriented revolutionary theory on the issue of intellectuals. Our intellectuals have embodied the theory monolithically.

Accordingly, as society develops, as the working people's cultural and technological level rises, and as the intellectuals' ranks increase, our party has put forward the policy of strengthening work with intellectuals and enhancing their roles in revolution and construction.

Our party has considered intellectuals as the working class who are engaged in mental labor in socialist society. Our party has regarded intellectuals as vanguards and standardbearers who carry out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural. Our party has led all intellectuals to fight to the end under the party leadership as an everlasting companion, faithful helper, good adviser, earnest supporter, and thorough implementer of the party policy. [applause]

This is an outstanding policy which regulates intellectuals as the working class engaged in mental labor in socialist society, regards them as vanguards and standardbearers in carrying out the three revolutions, and leads them to be an everlasting companion, faithful helper, good adviser, earnest supporter, and thorough implementer of the party policy. This policy has further deepened and developed a chuche-oriented policy. In accordance with the new historical circumstances in which a basic turn has been effected in intellectuals' ideological and mental traits, in which socialist construction has been deepened and developed, and in which the work of making intellectuals revolutionary and assimilating them into the working class has been promoted, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song early regulated intellectuals, workers, and peasants as the main forces of the revolution and as the component of the party and has led intellectuals to the single road of the revolution. [applause]

The policy reflects the legitimacy of socialist society in which the importance of technological and mental labor in social labor becomes great and in which the cultural and technological level increases. The policy is based on the profound analysis of the ever-increasing role of intellectuals in carrying out the ideological, technological, and cultural revolutions—the basic content of the continued revolution.

In addition, the policy includes our party's firm trust and warm love of our intellectuals, who have been brought up to be the party's genuine fighters in the course of firmly hewing out the thorny path of the revolution under the wise leadership of the party and the leader and who are trying to devote all wisdom and energy to the victory of the party's cause. [applause]

With the infinite loyalty to the fatherland and the revolution under any difficult and complicated circumstances, our party has resolutely adhered to and consistently carried out the chuche-oriented intellectuals' policy. Our party has newly regulated intellectuals' wisdom and role in accordance with the socialist construction which is developing to a new higher level. Our party has wisely organized and led intellectuals to bring into full play the revolutionary enthusiasm and creative positiveness in carrying out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—and in realizing the cause of modeling the whole society on the chuche idea.

In particular, to enhance the position and role of intellectuals in accordance with the demand of the socialist society development, our party has more thoroughly made intellectuals revolutionary and assimilated them into the working class. Our party has strengthened ideological indoctrination of intellectuals and induced them to lead the revolutionary organizational life. In addition, our party has energetically led intellectuals to carry out a revolutionary task precisely that of carrying out the revolution.

At the same time, our party keenly realized the importance of fostering the new generation of intellectuals who have been reared under the socialist system without experiencing exploitation, oppression, and hardship. Based on this insight, our party firmly organized institutions of higher education, including colleges, as strongholds of ideological revolution and as the base of the revolution. Our party ensured that colleges assumed the political and ideological education as a basis and that educational experiences and revolutionary practice and school education and social education are closely combined.

Fostering all members of society to be ardent revolutionaries by indoctrinating and reforming them is a priority task of the working class party, which has the mission of building a communist society by safeguarding and completely realizing the independence of the popular masses.

What is more important for the working class party in taking care of the people's destiny by bearing the responsibility is to make the people continuously flourish along the road of revolution by constantly educating them in a revolutionary manner.

The greatest love of the working class party toward the people is to educate the people in a revolutionary manner and lead them so that they advance along the single road of revolution without wavering, and its greatest crime toward the people is to make them fall ill and become corrupted by ideologically slackening them.

Intellectuals in some countries, which were building socialism in the past, ran away overseas by betraying their nation and people, and traversed along a disgraceful road, being used for antisocialist maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries. The reason for this is that the working class party, failing to correctly realize the position and role of intellectuals, neglected the revolutionary education for intellectuals, not standing on the position of bearing the full responsibility for their destiny to the end.

Our party constantly enhanced the position and role of intellectuals by bearing the full responsibility for their destiny. Our party made great efforts to always educate the intellectuals in a revolutionary manner and to foster them to be ardent revolutionaries who share the destiny with the working class.

Even when intellectuals made a momentary mistake in the course of carrying out their revolutionary mission, our party did not reject them but constantly indoctrinated them so that they could correct such mistakes through revolutionary practice. By constantly intensifying ideological education and revolutionary discipline for intellectuals in compliance with the demands of the developing revolution, our party allowed intellectuals to safeguard firmly their honor as permanent companions, faithful supporters, and excellent advisers of the party.

Our party warmly embraced intellectuals with great capacious minds—the embodiment of the chuche idea and of the revolutionary mass line—and actively educated them. Our party made great efforts to rear them to be ardent communist revolutionaries who share the destiny of the party forever. Thus, our party united all intellectuals with the party and firmly consolidated the unity and cohesion of the entire society.

Our party placed all of our intellectuals in the revolutionary ranks side by side with workers and peasants, and trusted and led them to be revolutionary comrades who will carry out the revolution to the end by overcoming hardship and trial together. Because our party's trust is endlessly sincere and warm, our intellectuals are resolved to permanently live and fight as the honor guard unit and do-or-die unit of the party by regarding the party's breath as a genuine lifeline in their lives and struggle. They are advancing along the single road of loyalty to whole-heartedly repay the party's trust and love. [applause]

Our party established the revolutionary policy on intellectuals based on the chuche idea and is brilliantly embodying it. Indeed, thanks to our party's leadership, all intellectuals in our country are brilliantly pioneering their destinies on the road of sacred struggle to achieve the independence of the popular masses and are carrying out rewarding and creative activities.

Our nation's cadres are working in the party's organizations and the state's economic organizations with deep trust and great expectations from the party and the leader. They are also managing and operating scientific and cultural organizations, plants, enterprises and cooperative farms excellently. Indeed, they are the nation's reliable mainstays who have been reared by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party, who extended special trust and love to them since the early part of the revolution. They are valuable assets to our revolution. [applause]

Thanks to the party's correct policy, 1.6 million intellectuals have been reared in our country, constituting one body and one soul with unitary ideology. They are dedicating all of their wisdom and talent to the nation's prosperity and development and to victory of the socialist cause.

Our country, where the ranks of national intellectuals began to be organized on empty land after the nation's liberation, now have a great unit of able revolutionary intellectuals who are endlessly loyal to the party and to the revolution and who are firmly armed with the chuche idea. This is one of the greatest achievements made by our party in accomplishing the chuche revolutionary cause by pioneering the unexplored road of socialism. [applause]

Ideological and mental traits of our intellectuals are excellent. The core of characteristics of ideological and mental traits cherished by our intellectuals is the boundless loyalty to our party—the great guide of the Korean revolution—and to the party's cause.

Our intellectuals have not had the genuine soul [noks] of the revolution, or suffered contemptuous treatment, oppression, and insults. However, the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party gave them a most valuable political life and chuche-based soul, and reared them in his bosom to be the majestic driving force of the revolution and heroes of the time, thus leading them so that they can enjoy genuine dignity and honor. The basic outlook dominating the ideological and mental world of all our intellectuals is to fight by dedicating everything to victory of the chuche revolutionary cause and by highly and permanently upholding the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and our party. [applause]

The single-hearted loyalty of our intellectuals, who resolved to share the destiny with the great motherly party forever by forming one organism with the party, is a basic foundation of life which nothing can demolish or destroy.

Our intellectuals are firmly convinced that our party guarantees today's glory of our revolution and its bright future. They are firmly determined to entrust the party with their destinies, to tenaciously defend and protect their party and leader, and to glorify their lives on the road of revolution led by the party in firm unity with the party and the leader. Such determination is indeed a lofty ideological emotion overflowing in the hearts of our intellectuals, and it is firm and steady. [applause]

This is why our intellectuals defend and protect the party and the leader, even risking their lives, by relying on them as their spiritual pillar under the difficult and complex circumstances. They have resolutely risen in the struggle for victory of the party's cause.

At a time when an unprecedently violent antisocialist wind was blowing internationally and socialism collapsed in some countries and when the imperialists and reactionaries, shouting for joy, were aggravating the situation to an extreme in our country, members of the second party cell in the Fifth Bureau of the Korean Central News Agency and a great number of our intellectuals, including poets of the Korean Literature Production, sent a letter filled with boundless trust to the leader of the revolution, thereby pledging their loyalty to the party. They demonstrated firm confidence that as long as there is our party center, we will win victory without fail. They also proudly displayed great unity and cohesion of our society. All of this is a clear expression of unswerving revolutionary faith of our intellectuals to uphold the party to the end by entrusting the party with their destiny forever and by traveling the road of glory and trials together with the party. [applause]

Our intellectuals are the enthusiastic protectors, thoroughly implementing party policies. They accept the party's line, policy, intent, and plans, regarding them as most correct, and struggle devotedly for their realization. Our intellectuals' stand and viewpoint on the policy and line set forth by their party at every phase have been thorough, and they have struggled to realize the party's intent and plans, jumping into fire and water. When our party set forth its new line and policy at every phase of the revolution and construction, our intellectuals devoted their wisdom and energy to turning them into reality and reliably guaranteed the implementation of the party's policy with science and technology.

The fine custom of devoting everything to solving the party's plans and intent with the firm stand that what the party decides we will do and with the attitude of being the master toward the revolutionary duty is highly exalted among our intellectuals today. The appearance of the outstanding struggle by our intellectuals who are devoting to creative activity for the fatherland and the people, including our sagacious sentries on the science front—who have been firmly defending the revolutionary outposts assigned by the party in order to strengthen the country's might and to guarantee the country's security and the people's peace through their constant disquisition and earnest efforts without receiving any compensation—is a common sight on all fronts of socialist construction.

Among our intellectuals, including functionaries in science, education, literature, arts, press and publications, health, and sports, numerous unheralded heroes and meritorious people are emerging. They are devotedly striving to implement the party's line and policy while regarding their implementation as the priority requirement in their life. Their struggle spirit and work style of jumping into fire and water in implementing the party's policy vividly show the noble mental world of intellectuals of our country.

Our intellectuals are resolute fighters for socialism who have firm faith in socialism. Because of the cunning maneuvers and breach of faith by the imperialists and their followers, the socialist cause is facing serious trials and challenges. However, our intellectuals' firm faith is unvarying today. [applause]

Our intellectuals' faith in socialism is a most pure, firm, and unvarying ideological feeling stemming from their resolute stand to share destiny with the party—which has provided this rewarding chuche-oriented socialism—after deeply experiencing through their routine life the incomparable superiority and vitality of the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style in which the chuche idea has been embodied. [applause]

The imperialists and all kinds of enemies of the revolution have been tenaciously scheming to innoculate socialist countries with the wind of bourgeois liberalization under the veil of democracy in a bid to destroy the rank of intellectuals in these countries. However, none of these rascals' maneuvers, appeasement, and soft and seductive language can fool our intellectuals who are struggling for the final victory of the socialist cause, firmly uniting as one mind around the party and the leader. [applause]

Our intellectuals are patriotic and revolutionary intellecutuals who do not seek self-interest and fame but find their value and happiness in the struggle for the fatherland, the people, society, and groups. Utilizing one's knowledge and technology for one's own distinction and seeking an idle, luxurious, and gay life has nothing to do with the real feature of our intellectuals.

Our intellectuals—who accept the revolutionary duty assigned by the party as the demands of their own living and as the greatest honor and happiness of their own lives and who deem it the greatest value of independent human beings to devote everything to the sacred struggle for the popular masses' independence—treasure the life they have spent to create happiness more preciously than a life of enjoying happiness. Thus, they are working in all fields in a revolutionary manner and leading a frugal life.

Our intellectuals are the standard-bearers of socialist construction. They have a high level of scientific knowledge and technology along with their lofty ideological and mental ethos. Today our intellectuals are vigorously struggling to develop socialist construction to a new high stage under the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—and thus to further add luster to the superiority of the popular masses-centered socialism of our own style in all fields. They are also vigorously struggling to demonstrate the nation's wisdom and dignity.

Our country—which was backward in terms of modern technology and where everything was turned into ashes because of the war triggered by the U.S. imperialists—built modern cities and rural areas in a short period of time after the war with its own strength and technology and with its own resources. Thus, it established the firm foundation for the self-reliant national economy. At the same time, our country is achieving brilliant successes by vigorously carrying out socialist construction today. All of this cannot be contemplated apart from the creative activity and devoted struggle of our intellectuals.

The party and the leader firmly trust intellectuals and look after their destiny to the end in a responsible manner while intellectuals are loyal and dutiful to the party and the leader, entrusting their destinies to them. This condition can be found only in our country where the leader, the party, and the masses are firmly united as one mind. Herein lies the source of the invincible might of our party and the boundless creative ability of our intellectuals. [applause]

Indeed, the intellectuals in our country today are enjoying the absolute confidence of our party and love and respect from all the people. They have become the precious treasure and pride of the country. Because of this loyal and reliable rank of intellectuals, our party is strong, our people are strong, and our fatherland of chuche is enjoying infinite grandeur and prosperity. [applause]

It is thanks to the wise leadership of the WPK headed by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song that our intellectuals have grown to be one of the powerful main forces of the Korean revolution in the course of unswervingly traveling the arduous and difficult road of revolution and have been able to highly demonstrate their creative ability in the fierce struggle of remolding society and nature. [applause]

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song created the guiding ideology of the era of independence by founding the immortal chuche idea and thus has elucidated the genuine bright road for mankind, that is, the road of revolution. The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song is the great teacher, the great benefacter, and the benevolent father who has brought up our intellectuals to be members in charge of the Korean revolution and fighters of the Korean revolution by embracing them in his bosom. [applause]

The glorious WPK, the great guide of the Korean revolution, is the veteran, tested, and ever-victorious party which is leading our people's revolutionary cause, that is, the chuche-oriented socialist cause, to the single road of victory; which has united all of the people into a solid social and political organism; and which is bringing up our intellectuals to be the eternal companion of the party and the resolute defender and the spearhead of the chuche cause. [applause].

The honor, happiness, pride, and dignity that our people and intellectuals are enjoying today are derived from upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in the forefront and in moving forward under the banner of ever-victorious WPK. [applause]

Our party has expounded the creative policy toward intellectuals based on the great chuche idea. By embodying the policy, it has prepared the meeting of the talented and powerful intellectuals who are indefinitely faithful to the party and who devotedly serve the fatherland and the people. The achievements of our party-,which has given a correct explanation of the settlement of the intellectuals' problems, are a very important asset in consummating our revolutionary cause. These achievements will shine forever with the advance of our era and our revolution. [applause]

Taking this significant opportunity of the Korean intellectuals' meeting, amd wearing [tama] the burning reverence and boundless loyalty of all participants in the meeting and all intellectuals over the country, I extend the greatest honor and the warmest thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and our people, who has wisely led our intellectuals to the rewarding road of the revolution and socialism, who has fostered intellectuals' large army unit in our county, and who has enabled us to enjoy the most lofty life and honor. [applause]

Comrades, we are assigned the heavy task of strongly adhering to the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style prevailing in our country and further glorifying it by vigorously accelerating the socialist construction in conformity with the demands of the current situation and the development of the revolution.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Properly carrying out the socialist construction is a glorious task given to our people in these historical times.

In recent years, conflict and struggle between socialism and imperialism and between progressives and reactionaries are being more sharply staged in the international arena because of the imperialists' and reactionaries' antisocialist plot.

Socialism collapsed in some countries, and the balance of power between the East and the West was upset. Using this opportunity, the imperialists and reactionaries are now foolishly cherishing their dream of dominating the world by completely destroying socialism and by resurrecting the colonial structure. They are obstructing our people's cause of socialist construction and national reunification. Our people are moving forward without faltering even in today's complicated situation, while upholding the banner of the revolution. In addition, they are forging more vicious plots than ever before in order to isolate, block, and attack our country.

Despite the imperialists' and reactionaries' pressure, challenge, threat, and blockade, our people are firmly united as one around the party and the leader. Therefore, no one can frighten our people, who are firmly safeguarding the red banner of future socialism, the ideal of our people. No one can block our people's advance. [applause]

Standing at the head of our revolution is the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who has led our people's anti-imperialist cause for independence—the cause of socialism—along the single road of victory, with the experienced, refined, and ever-victorious WPK firmly at the steering wheel of the revolution. [applause]

Through their actual lives, our people have come to firmly believe that only socialism can achieve the independent ideals of the popular masses and enable them to lead happy and rewarding lives. They are the revolutionary people who clearly foresee the victory of the socialist cause as an inevitable course of world history.

The recent collapse of the socialist ruling party resulting in the return from socialism to capitalism in some countries is only an transient phenomenon off the normal track in view of the overall trend of the development of the history of mankind. As long as there are the reactionary forces maneuvering to obliterate the people's cause of independence, it is inevitable for the people to struggle against it, and it is the law of historical development that this struggle brings forth the victory of the socialist cause.

The imperialists are bluffing as they rave about the so-called victory of capitalism as they see the collapse of socialism in some countries, but capitalism has now reached a serious crisis. With the imperialists' overseas monopoly intensified, the reactionary nature and anti-people nature of modern imperialism are being revealed more and more, and the complaint of the working popular masses about the rotten and morbid capitalist society is increasing with each passing day.

Because of the criminal maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries, catastrophic crises prevail in the countries where capitalism is reinstated. The crises these countries are experiencing is not the crises of socialism but the crises of the reinstated capitalism. The broad strata of working popular masses of these countries have painfully learned in the serious whirlwind of disaster that capitalism is the gold fist [hwanggumui chumok] and the incarnation of injustice and vice which ruthlessly destroy all beautiful and noble things. They deplore the fact that the dignity of man has been thoroughly despised and trampled upon and deplore their plight arising from the reinstatement of capitalism. Adoring the happy era of socialism they enjoyed in the past, they are waging a new struggle against the bourgeois reinstatement and for the revival of socialism. The aspiration to build a new independent world is growing among the world's progressive people with each passing day, and socialism is still what the revolutionary parties and people are struggling for and the ideal of progressive mankind.

As a storm is followed by bright sunshine, so the socialism of tomorrow, having overcome the imperialists' challenge today, will be a driving force of the forward movement of history with even greater traction in conformity with the independent aspiration and demand of the popular masses. [applause]

The joint declaration of the revolutionary parties of the world on defending and advancing the socialist cause which was adopted in Pyongyang last April powerfully reconfirmed the truthfulness, justness, and the inevitability of its triumph. Some 150 communist parties, workers parties, and progressive parties of the world signed the Pyongyang Declaration, and the world's revolutionary people warmly support the declaration. This clearly shows that no force can block the people's aspiration for socialism. [applause]

The world is now facing a historic period when the revolutionary force is reorganized for socialism on a new foundation and when the socialist movement is rebuilt. This process of world history assigns a heavy but honorable task to our party and people. [applause]

For us to vigorously advance the revolutionary struggle and construction work, resolutely adhere to socialism, and highly exalt its vitality today is not only the struggle to accelerate the completion of the cause of the Korean revolution but also the sacred struggle to open the bright future of the world's socialist cause.

Our party and people, who have been faithful to the socialist cause throughout history with deep awareness of their mission for the times and the people, will continuously advance in the future as well along the single road of socialism without deviation under the banner of the revolution, overcoming all sorts of trials. [applause]

It is the unique trait of the heroic Korean people and their traditional struggle ethos to make continuous and victorious advance, bravely overcoming the trials they meet, turning adversity into a favorable condition and turning misfortune into fortune, bracing themselves for the justness of their cause and the faith in the victory of the revolution, even if the situation is difficult and they encounter manifold difficulties. Our intellectuals—who have faithfully upheld the socialist cause, waging a devoted struggle with all the people under the leadership of the party—should spare no efforts to more firmly solidify and add luster to the socialism of our own style, which has taken root deep in this land, cherishing deep in their hearts high pride and self-respect in and heavy feeling of responsibility for being the revolutionary intellectuals of chuche Korea pioneering the bright future of mankind at the head of the times. [applause]

For our intellectuals to uphold our party—which leads the socialist cause—and fulfill their mission and role for the times and the revolution, they should add luster to the honor of being the party's dependable men in active service. "Let the intellectuals be the party's eternal companions, loyal helpers, excellent advisers, the enthusiastic advocates of the party's policy, and the thorough implementors of the party policy." This is the revolutionary slogan which our intellectuals should uphold. This is the slogan of faith of the intellectuals of our country who are resolved to be loyal to the party forever on the single road of the revolution for socialism. It is the militant banner to which our intellectuals should always adhere. [applause]

For our intellectuals to contribute truly to the fulfillment of the socialist cause as the party's eternal companions, they should resolutely adhere to the revolutionary principles which the party put forth and thoroughly implement the general line of socialist construction. To adhere to the revolutionary principles in socialist construction is a problem of vital interests connected with our revolution and the overall fate of the socialist cause.

In some countries socialism has collapsed and capitalism revived. This process began with abandoning the revolutionary principles, the socialist principles. One step of concession and retreat from the revolutionary principles resulted in 10 and 100 steps of concession and retreat. This ultimately brought about the collapse of the working-class party and the ruin of its cause.

That socialism will win if one adheres to revolutionary principles and that it will collapse if one abandons them is a truth that has been proven by the history of the socialist movement and the reality. To continuously uphold the revolutionary banner and victoriously advance the socialist cause by firmly adhering to revolutionary positions, we must firmly adhere to our party's overall policies on socialist construction and vigorously carry out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and culural. The line on the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and culural—is the most scientific and revolutionary line that elucidates ways to restructure natural, human, and social relations in compliance with the demand of the chuche idea, complete the socialist cause, and completely realize the popular masses' independence.

The reality in our country in which the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and culural—are being pushed ahead comprehensively under the banner of imbuing the entire society with the chuche idea demands that our intellectuals fulfill their honorable mission and duty in carrying out the three revolutions.

The ideological and culural sectors are basic to socialist and communist construction designed to educate and reform people, to strengthen the main forces of the revolution, and to conquer the ideological fortress of communism. The most acute front lines in confrontation with imperialism are the ideological and cultural fields.

The imperialist reactionaries, including the U.S. imperialists, are giving priority to strengthening ideological and cultural offensives to realize their antisocialist strategies. By so doing, they are maneuvering to crumble the people's belief in socialism and destroy the revolutionary ranks politically and ideologically.

To thoroughly crush the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration and strongly defend the ideological and cultural frontline, one must give priority to the ideological revolution designed to arm the people with an ideological awareness for independence. One must also firmly maintain the purity of socialism.

We can say that if money is the most important object in a capitalist society where materialism is omnipotent, ideology is the most important in a socialist society where the popular masses are masters. If the popular masses are armed with socialism and united as one based on socialism, socialism will win. And, if the popular masses become sick ideologically, socialism will perish.

Historic experiences seriously show that if ideology degenerates, the working class party and the socialist system will degenerate and cease to exist.

Our intellectuals must uphold the party's policy on the ideological revolution and play the role of flag bearers in the vanguard of the struggle to implement this policy.

Intellectuals in the ideological and cultural fields, including social science, publications, mass media, and culture and arts, must have honor and a sense of responsibility as vanguards in our party's ideological and cultural construction and must become ideological educators and propagators who positively and widely propagandize our party's revolutionary idea, the chuche idea; the party's greatness; and the superiority of the socialism of our own style according to characteristics of each field where they are serving. They must also become organizers and mobilizers who vigorously inspire the popular masses into implementing the party's policies. They must vigorously conduct scientific research work, publication and media work, and literary and artistic production and propagation work designed to strongly arm people with our party's revolutionary tradition, to give them a belief in the justness of the socialist cause and its victory, and to maintain the chuche revolutionary cause generation after generation to the end under any difficult circumstances, and to brilliantly complete this cause.

Our intellectuals must become propagators and educators for the people and the organizers and mobilizers of the people. They must become fighters who defend and maintain socialism and ensure the victory of socialism over capitalism in the ideological confrontation with the imperialists.

All intellectuals in the ideological and cultural fields must resolutely struggle against capitalism, revisionism, doctrinism, toadyism, and all the other antiquated and reactionary ideas and prevent the slightest indication of those ideas from infiltrating us. In particular, we must resolutely oppose and reject the antirevolutionary maneuvers by the imperialists and modern revisionists to preach liberalism in ideology, a plural party system in politics, and diversity in ownership under the pretext of pluralism. We must also positively struggle to strongly defend, maintain, and develop the political, economic, and cultural systems of our own style, in which socialist principles are implemented.

Ideological confrontation with the imperialists is an acute and serious struggle between socialism and capitalism that will determine a victory or defeat and a war even though no guns or cannons resound. We must respond to the imperialists' frantic ideological offensives with all-out ideological counteroffensives to vigorously demonstrate the truthfulness of socialism and the invincibility of the socialist cause.

Intellectuals in the ideological and theoretical fronts and the publication and mass media sectors must realize the particularly heavy responsibility that intellectuals of chuche Korea have before the era and history, firmly maintain the purity of the creative ideas and theories on socialism which our party comprehensively elucidated based on its chuche idea, and more widely, more profoundly, and more energetically carry out the work of explaining and propagandizing chuche-oriented socialism. In this way, they must positively contribute to mankind's common cause of rebuilding the world's socialist movement and soundly developing it.

Upholding the party's policy on the cultural revolution and accelerating socialist cultural construction is our intellectuals' revolutionary mission. To upgrade the cultural and technological standards of all members of society and respond to the imperialists' ideological and cultural infiltration with a chuche-oriented socialist culture, we must completely eliminate the vestige of the backwardness which the outdated society has left behind in the cultural field and create a new culture for the working popular masses. And the intellectuals must play a vanguard role in this struggle.

Intellectualizing the entire society is an important strategical objective of the cultural revolution. Intellectuals in the educational field must consolidate and develop the achievements which they have brought about in the education of the posterity and national cadres under the party's leadership and thoroughly implement our party's thesis on socialist education. In this way, they must more highly display the superiority of our country's socialist system, have all members of society have higher education, and positively contribute to reducing a gap between physical labor and mental labor.

Also, intellectuals working in the literary and artistic, public health, and athletic fields and various other fields must uphold our party's policy on socialist cultural construction and positively struggle to implement this policy. In this way, they must vigorously contribute to creating a revolutionary and working class-oriented socialist culture, upgrading the workers' cultural and spiritual lives, and more gloriously displaying the superiority of the man-centered socialism of our country.

Our intellectuals must uphold the party's policy on the technological revolution and become vanguards in the struggle to develop the country's economy and science and technology. The economic and scientific and technological fields are important fields in conquering the material fortress of socialism and communism by strongly building the country's material and technological basis. And, these fields are another area where socialism and imperialism are confronting with each other intensely.

To win a decisive victory over capitalism, socialism must be backed up by powerful economic strength and advanced science and technology. We must prove that the socialist system is superior to the capitalist system in achieving economic development and scientific and technological progress.

Our intellectuals must profoundly realize that they have the heavy responsibility of defeating capitalism in the economic and scientific and technological fields and achieving a socialist victory and must make every effort to develop the economy and make scientific and technological progress.

Intellectuals in economic, scientific, and technological domains should give firm priority to our party's socialist, self-reliant, national economic construction line and concentrate their efforts on solving scientific and technological problems arising in realizing chucheization, modernization, and scientization of national economy. Scientists and technologists should solve scientific and technological problems requiring our urgent attention in developing our country's national economy and arising in catching up with advanced countries at an earlier date in the fields lagging behind those of these countries. They should introduce the advanced countries' scientific and technological achievements to our country in conformity with our country's realities. They should unanimously and vigorously launch into the scientific research work to enhance the country's science and technology to the world advanced countries' level at an earlier date. Thus, they should vigorously contribute to achieving the scientific and technological development goal projected up to 2000, which our party has already put forth. [applause]

Comrades, our party is heavily relying on the unit of intellectuals who have been brought up in the party's bosom and have high ideological consciousness, modern science and technology, and versatility. We are confident that when our intellectuals firmly prepare themselves as mighty performers of the chuche-socialist cause, they can perform any kind of difficult and enormous task well. In order for our intellectuals to defend and adhere to socialism in conformity with the party's confidence in and expectation of them and to play the role of vanguard fighters who offer their lives for socialist victory, they should have a firmer faith in socialism than anyone else. Socialism is their destiny and future to intellectuals who demand that they aspire after and struggle for social justice and progress, oppose class domination and subjugation of exploiting class, live and develop independently.

The realities of countries which are returning to capitalism today show that frustration of socialism means intellectuals' downfall. Serious economic catastrophe and social decadence dominating today's world deprive intellectuals of foundation of their true creative activities and happy life and drive them into spiritual and moral degeneration and severe difficulties in living.

Capitalism is the beastly world which turns intellectuals' intelligence into commodities and makes intellectuals the slaves of capital, while socialism is a true world of civilization which treasures man's intelligence most and treats intellectuals as dignified masters of society. Man, who is a social being, not only demands that he lead an abundant material life and a healthy life and develop, but also demands that he lead a splendid spiritual life and develop spiritually and culturally. The intrinsic demand of a social being can be brought into bloom only on the socialist road.

In order for our intellectuals to have a firm faith in socialism and become fighters who are endlessly faithful to our party's cause and chuche-socialist cause, they should boundlessly revolutionize themselves and make themselves the working class. The most correct way for them to become enthusiastic communist revolutionaries who cherish confidence and love of the party and the leader [suryong], who has brought them up, and thus share destiny with the working class party forever, lies in that they endlessly revolutionize themselves and make themselves the working class.

Loyalty to the party and the leader is the primary life of chuche-type communist revolutionaries and the first symbol of the intellectuals who have been revolutionized and assimilated into the working class. Intellectuals should have a more thorough revolutionary view on the leader than anyone else. Only by doing so can they become genuine communist revolutionaries. Loyalty to the party and the leader is the basic source of the solidness and might of the single-minded unity between the party and the ranks of the revolution.

The single-minded unity between the party and the ranks of the revolution with the leader as the center can be achieved and consolidated only when the party and the leader are upheld with faith and sense of obligation. Deeply keep in mind that the ties of blood of our society—which has formed a solid social and political organism in which the leader, the party, and the masses share the same destiny—are precisely the blood vessel guaranteeing the eternal life force of our revolution our intellectuals should make loyalty to the party and the leader firm faith and conscience, morality, and a routine life.

All of our intellectuals should sincerely uphold and follow the party and the leader with their clean conscience and sense of obligation and should resolutely safeguard and defend the party and the leader politically and ideologically and with their lives by firmly uniting with one ideological will. Along with this they should take the faithful implementation of the party's ideology and intent as the goal of their life and struggle by thoroughly implementing the party's line and policy. Thus, they should struggle, devoting all of their strength and wisdom.

The revolutionary ideology of our party, that is, the chuche idea, is a guiding principle and a world view which extensively elucidate how intellectuals should live and struggle as faithful revolutionaries of the chuche cause. Only when intellectuals are firmly armed with the chuche idea and establish a firm chuche-oriented revolutionary world view can they not only have the mental and moral features as genuine revolutionaries who have been revolutionized and assimilated into the working class, but also devotedly struggle to perform their assigned revolutionary duties.

All of our intellectuals should take the chuche idea as their firm faith and think and act according to the demands of the chuche idea wherever and whenever. They should also thoroughly embody the principle of chuche, that is, the revolutionary principle of self-reliance and fortitude, in the revolution and construction according to the party's slogan, "Let us live our own way." They should also display the struggle habit of carrying out their assigned revolutionary duties in a responsible manner with the attitude befitting the master.

The revolutionary organizational life and revolutionary practice are a most effective way for intellectuals to revolutionize themselves and to assimilate themselves into the working class. Intellectuals carry out mental work, leaving from production work, and in many cases they carry out activities individually. So, when they constantly temper themselves through the revolutionary organizational life and revolutionary practice they can cultivate their strong revolutionary spirit, organizational spirit, and disciplinary character and devote themselves for the party, the revolution, and society.

All of our intellectuals should voluntarily and sincerely participate in the organizational life of the party and mass organizations with a correct view on organization and should constantly temper themselves in a revolutionary way in the course of carrying out their assigned revolutionary tasks. They should also mingle with the producer masses to learn high revolutionary spirit and organizational spirit, firm will, and militant mettle from workers and farmers. They should display their disposition as revolutionaries amid the practice of socialist construction.

In order for intellectuals to become genuine communists who have been revolutionized and assimilated into the working class, they should firmly establish a collectivist view on life. The main obstacle to revolutionizing people is individualism, egoism. Genuine revolutionaries, communists, treasure interests of groups rather than interests of individuals. They are those who have the collectivist spirit of victimizing themselves in the interest of sociaty and groups. In the socialist society all members of the society should establish a collectivist view on life. However, intellectuals should establish a firmer collectivist view on life because they are more frequently engaged in individual activity.

Just as the late anti-Japanese revolutionaries had fought only for the revolution in the past while chewing grass roots and bark for meals and sleeping outdoors in wind and frost even amid the worst adversity beyond imagination, our intellectuals do not pursue their personal comfort and honor whenever and wherever they are. They devote themselves to the party, the revolution, the society, and the group. By cherishing such a true collectivist view of life, they should lead their whole life in a worthwhile and rewarding manner.

"Not for the personal comfort and honor, but for the party, the revolution, the society, and the group, let us live and struggle like the anti-Japanese guerrilla unit's propagandists or underground operation activists." Our intellectuals should keep in their mind this slogan as their principle of life and as their motto. [applause]

The true communist revolutionaries mean the patriots. Therefore, our intellectuals should become the enthusiastic patriots in order to become intellectuals of the party and intellectuals who devote themselves to the working class and the people.

There is no border in science, but intellectuals have their fatherland. Our intellectuals are linked to the chuche socialist fatherland as one body with the same destiny. Because we have the chuche socialist fatherland which our people has defended at the cost of their lives and brought to bloom under the wise leadership of the party and the leader, we have a rewarding life and happiness and a hopeful future today.

The principle "The Korean Nation is the Best" is a boundless dignity and pride for the Korean nation's greatness. This is the high sense of awareness and determination of the Korean people who want to further glorify the fatherland which they love. The spirit "The Korean Nation is the Best" is also an ideological and spiritual foundation which enables our intellectuals to carry out the holy mission which they have before the socialist fatherland as the Korean intellectuals.

With the immortal chuche idea, our intellectuals should cherish deeply in their heart the great dignity and honor of living and carrying out the revolution in their chuche-based fatherland in which the most superior socialist system centered on people was established, while following the leadership of the great leader and the great party. They should also devote themselves to the struggle for further adding luster to the socialist fatherland in which our socialist system, self-reliant national economy, and socialist national culture are in full bloom. [applause]

To successfully carry out the mission and duty which our intellectuals have before the times and the revolution at present, they should constantly enhance their ability. Intellectuals' basis is their ability and technology. Intellectuals' important role is determined by their own scientific and technological qualities. Science and technology are developing today at a remarkably rapid speed. All the countries are keenly competing with each other in order to outstrip others in the scientific, technological, and cultural fields.

The imperialists are monopolizing science and technology, which are the mankind's common wealth. They are persistently maneuvering to check the development of the socialist countries' science, technology, and national culture.

Our intellectuals should not always forget the dishonored history of our nation which had been backward in modern civilization and which had been unworthy in the rank of underdeveloped countries in the world. They should cherish deeply in their mind the fact that our fatherland's future development and the victorious advance of socialism of our style greatly depends on the ability of all intellectuals throughout the country. They should also constantly struggle to enhance their own ability.

It is a taboo, which can never be tolerated, for intellectuals to idle away their time without making blood-and-tears endeavor as they have learned from the socialist lifestyle. Our intellectuals should be deeply aware of a heavy responsibility, which they have before the era and revolution, and gird up their loins. They should rouse themselves to action and set a high goal. They should be diligent in studies through thorough time management and thoroughly prepare themselves so that they can widely demonstrate might and outstanding civilization of socialist Korea by means of splendid scientific achievements, which have worldwide significance, and cultural creation.

To make intellectuals genuine communist revolutionaries of chuche type who are loyal to the party and the revolution and able socialist scientific and technological, and cultural creaters, it is imperative for party organizations and functionaries to properly carry out work with intellectuals. Intellectuals are the valuable people whom our party and people treasure and love.

Party organizations should properly carry out work with intellectuals so as to see to it that they vigorously traverse the road of the revolution together with the party under all circumstances without trepidation and, thus, uphold the party's cause to the end with knowledge and technology.

Party organizations and functionaries should pay deep attention to the political and ideological life of intellectuals so as to see to it that they demonstrate zeal in the performance of their revolutionary duties. Party organizations and functionaries should also assess successes of intellectuals' research activities in a fair manner and should see to it that the successes are actively introduced into production. They should give courage and encouragement to intellectuals even when they meet a failure in the course of their research activities. They should pay due attention to providing intellectuals with better work conditions and living conditions. They should provide them with outstanding working conditions such as research facilities, laboratory, and writing rooms in a timely manner.

In particular, party organizations and functionaries should concentrate efforts on properly doing work with intellectuals of the third and fourth generations of the revolution. The intellectuals of new generations are the replacement of our ideological and cultural front and scientific and cultural front. They are also the pioneers and creaters of new science, technology, and culture who should solve the scientific and technological problems that our previous generations have not solved and who should develop the country's science and technology to a world level.

Party organizations should see to it that intellectuals of new generations devote all of their talent and wisdom for the party, the revolution, the fatherland, and the people as the intellectuals of previous generations did by firmly arming them with a chuche-oriented revolutionary world view and that they resolutely fight for the development of the country's science, technology, and culture and for the consummation of the chuche revolutionary cause. [applause]

Comrades: Under the wise leadership of the party and the leader our people and intellectuals have built the most superior socialism of our own style centered on the popular masses on this land by victoriously traversing the protracted and arduous road of the revolution. Even today they are brilliantly pioneering the road ahead for socialism with indomitable fighting spirit and vigorously fighting to expedite the cause of national reunification.

Withdrawing the U.S. imperialist aggressors—who are occupying the southern part of our country for almost half a century, forcing national division upon our people, and creating the dark clouds of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula—and, thus, achieving national reunification is the supreme national task and the unanimous desire of all of the nation.

Even at this moment, the South Korean youth, students and conscientious intellectuals are courageously waging a just struggle without fear of sacrifice for democratic freedom and rights and for the independent and peaceful reunification of the nation against the U.S. imperialists' military occupation. Besides, the Korean intellectuals living overseas are carrying out patriotic scientific and cultural activities for prosperity and development of the socialist fatherland and for national reunification by cherishing ardent love for the nation and people.

All intellectuals of the northern half of the republic will more vigorously struggle to achieve the cause of national reunification at an early date based on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity in firm unity with the South Korean youth, students and progressive intellectuals, who are tenaciously fighting for the anti-U.S. cause for independence, for antifascist cause for democracy and for national reunification, and with the Korean intellectuals overseas who are dedicating all patriotic passion and creative wisdom to the independent reunification of the nation and to prosperity and development of the socialist fatherland. [applause]

The socialist cause—the popular masses' cause of independence—is a national cause and at the same time, is a common cause of mankind. It is an important factor for victory in accomplishing the popular masses' cause for independence to strengthen international unity and solidarity.

Today the progressive people of the world pay more attention [toukdo nachul tollida] to our country which is advancing forward by upholding the revolutionary banner—the banner of socialism—without wavering even amid a complex situation. They wish that the socialist cause will be continuously victorious in our chuche fatherland.

Our party and people will, as in the past, firmly unite with the world's people who are defending independence under the ideal of independence, peace and friendship, and will staunchly fight for victory of the common cause of socialism. Thus, we will fulfill the missions assigned by the time and by the revolution.

The party's trust and expectations for our intellectuals in the struggle to defend and glorify socialism, are great, and such trust and expectations are invariable.

Our party firmly believes that all intellectuals, keenly realizing the demand of the time and trust by the party, will actively contribute to defending, protecting and brilliantly accomplishing the party's cause—the socialist cause—with pen. Our party believes that our intellectuals will thus open a new chapter of feats in history of our nation by demonstrating the spirit and majestic appearance of the Korean intellectuals. [applause]

The socialist cause—mankind's cause for independence—is invincible and ever-victorious and the future of our party and people, who are tenaciously advancing forward along the road of socialism, is endlessly bright. [applause]

Let us all more tenaciously fight for national reunification, for victory of the socialist cause and for accomplishment of the chuche revolutionary cause by overcoming all difficulties and trials and by upholding the banner of the chuche idea—the revolutionary banner—in firm unity with the party Central Committee headed by the respected Comrade Kim Il-song. [applause]

Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol at Judicial Meeting

SK1912110792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 19 (KCNA)—A national meeting of judicial workers was held at the February 8 House of Culture from December 17 to 19.

The meeting held upon the lapse of ten years since the publication of "On Increasing Obedience to Socialist Laws", a historical work of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, reviewed the achievements and experiences attained in the law-abiding activities under the wise guidance of the party and the leader and discussed tasks to defend the party's line and policies with laws and make the whole society replete with the law-abiding revolutionary spirit.

The meeting was attended by Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol, Politburo members of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and vice-presidents, leading officials of central and local party, power and administrative and economic guidance bodies, judicial workers, men of judicial and prosecution organs, public security officers and model law explainers.

Kye Ung-tae, Politburo member and secretary of the C.C., the WPK, conveyed a congratulatory letter of the C.C., the WPK to the participants in the meeting.

Noting that strengthening the socialist law-abiding life is of weighty significance in consolidating the state and social system and accelerating revolution and construction, the letter highly appreciated the positive contributions made by the judicial workers throughout the country in the past to steadfastly defending our socialist system and pushing ahead with revolution and construction.

It called on all the judicial workers to become ardent revolutionaries who always think and act in accordance with the party's idea and intention anywhere, fully equipped with the chuche idea of our party, and steadfast defenders and strict executors of the party's policies.

Vice-President Pak Song-chol delivered a report, which was followed by speeches.

The reporter and speakers said the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, have been powerfully accelerated, a big progress has been made in socialist construction and the nation's political and economic potential has increased still further.

They stressed that all the judicial workers should smash the anti-socialist moves of the imperialists and the reactionaries and strengthen the driving force of the revolution to advance our revolution triumphantly and make a healthy and revolutionary spirit prevail in the whole society.

A letter of pledge to comrade Kim Chong-il was adopted at the meeting.

People's Assembly Endorses New Investment Laws

SK2212015492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 21 (KCNA)—The 4th session of the 9th Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on December 11 1992 endorsed the laws of the DPRK on foreigners' investment, contractual joint venture and foreign enterprises, decision of the SPA standing committee of the DPRK on October 5, 1992, which are laws of the SPA.

These laws stipulate the general principles and rules that foreigners should observe in business activities.

Foreigners' investment law consists of 22 sections.

According to this law, a foreign investor shall be allowed to establish equity and contractual joint ventures within the territory of the DPRK and to set up and operate wholly foreign-owned enterprises in the free economic and trade zone. Those foreign investment enterprises which are established in the free economic and trade zone shall receive the following preferential treatment in their operation.

No customs duty shall be levied on export and import materials except those items which are prescribed by the state. No income tax shall be payable for 3 years from the year that profit begins to be earned, and there shall be a reduction of income tax of up to 50 percent for the next 2 years. The state shall lease land needed to foreign investors and for the establishment of foreign investment enterprises for the maximum period of 50 years.

The contractual joint venture law consists of 21 sections.

According to this law, contractual joint ventures shall be established primarily in sectors that produce exportable goods, with the introduction of advanced technologies, and also in tourism and service sectors.

The state encourages foreign investors to bring in modern equipment and high technologies, and to invest in sectors that produce internationally competitive goods.

The law on foreign enterprises consists of 4 chapters 31 articles.

According to this law, the state shall allow legal persons and individuals of foreign countries to establish and manage their enterprises within the free economic and trade zone.

Foreign investors shall establish and manage their enterprises in electronics industry, automation industry, machine-building industry, food-processing industry, clothing industry, daily-necessities industry, transport, service industry and other industries.

The DPRK expands and develops economic cooperation and technical exchanges with Foreign Countries of the world on the principles of complete equality and mutual benefit. This is a consistent policy of the DPRK Government.

The DPRK Government adopted the decision No. 74 of the administration council "on founding the free economic and trade zone" on December 28 1991.

A total area of 621 square kilometres including 14 dongs and ris of Najin city and 10 ris and residential quarters of Sonbong county, North Hamgyong Province, has been proclaimed as the free economic and trade zone, according to the decision.

Najin and Sonbong ports in this zone and neighbouring Chongjin port have become free trade ports.

The state shall protect by law the capital invested by foreigners in the free economic and trade zone and income from the management of enterprises and ensure preferential treatment and convenience such as reduction of customs and income tax to the enterprises established and managed in this zone, according to the character of investment, said the decision.

An international meeting on establishing the free economic and trade zone in Rajin and Sonbong was held in the DPRK on may 2 and 3, 1992.

Railway Transport Meets Growing Economic Demands

SK2112104792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1018 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Pyongyang December 21 (KCNA)—Railway transport satisfactorily meets the growing demand of the national economy for transportation.

According to data available under the Ministry of Railways, 1,238,000 more tons of freight than in the same period last year was carried as of the end of November.

During this period more than 260 railway stations and locomotive corps fulfilled their yearly plans for freight transport.

A signal success was registered in railway construction, too.

An electrification project of some 400-kilometre railways has been pushed ahead at a fast speed. 100-kilometre sections—Hamhung-Sinhung, Sinhung-Pujonho, Kujang-Hyangjang—have been switched over to electric traction and the electrification project between Hyesan-Manpo, Pyongsan-Kaesong and Sunchon-Kaechon sections is at the final stage.

Railway projects and the introduction of broad-gauge rails between Namdong and Onchon, Haeju and Ongjin and Sinkangyong and Pupo are being stepped up.

The Government of the DPRK defined railways as the arteries of the country and the pilot of the national economy from the early period of the building of a new Korea after the liberation (August, 1945) and has since directed great efforts to the development of railway transport.

A total length of railway line has now increased by 3,360 kilometres as against 1946 and a large loop of railway network linking North, South, east and west coasts and northern inland has been formed.

With the acceleration of railway electrification thousands of kilometres of trunk line, branch line, sidings have been switched over to electric traction.

The haulage by electric locomotives in railway freight transport accounts for more than 90 percent.

The Kim Chong-tae electric locomotive complex, the June 4 rolling stock complex, the Hwanghae iron and Steel complex, etc. are fully capable of meeting the material and technical demand of railway transport such as 7,000 h.p. [horsepower] 8-axle electric locomotives, 100 ton heavy-duty wagons and heavy-duty rails.

South Korea

Reportage, Comment on Resumption of SRV Ties

Yi Sang-ok Arrives in Hanoi

SK2112061192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0604 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi, Dec. 21 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok arrived in Hanoi on Monday to restore ties severed 17 years ago, when the communists took power.

Lee, the guest of Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, is expected to sign a protocol on diplomatic normalization on Tuesday. He will meet with other Vietnamese leaders to discuss ways to improve bilteral political and economic relations.

Cam is to host a welcoming dinner Monday evening at which Yi will call on the two countries to overcome the unhappy past, such as South Korea's participation in the Vietnam war, and look toward to the future.

The visiting minister is to emphasize a new, ideal partnership for peace, prosperity and a new order in South Asia.

Seoul and Hanoi exchanged liaison offices earlier this year as a prelude to diplomatic normalization.

Editorial on Diplomatic 'Milestone'

SK2312024892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 23 Dec 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Seoul-Hanoi Rapprochement"]

[Text] The establishment of full relations between Seoul and Hanoi which came after they severed formal ties in 1975 marked a milestone in the nation's diplomatic history. It also was a culmination of the government's "nordpolitik" which the president government has vigorously pursued since its inauguration.

Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok, now visiting Hanoi, and his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam signed a joint communique yesterday establishing diplomatic ties and agreeing to promote mutual relations in all fields.

The setting up of full relations between the two countries which once were war adversaries undoubtedly reflects their evergrowing economic and trade cooperation. Their two-way trade increased from $87 million in 1989 to $334 million during the first nine months of this year. Korean firms are expected to invest some $180 million in natural resources development projects and manufacturing fields in that country.

There was an unhappy chapter in the past relations of Korea and Vietnam, namely Korea's participation in the war in Vietnam from 1964 to 1973. During the period, an aggregate number of 300,000 Korean soldiers were dispatched to the Southeast Asian country and fought the North Vietnamese and Vietcong.

But in the nearly two decades after Korea ended its participation in the war, the two nations managed to heal the scars and gradually restored friendship and developed close contacts in various fields. Now, Vietnam ranks third in terms of trade volume among present and former communist states, next to China and Russia. And there is a great potential for expanding complementary ties with Korea's advanced know-how and Vietnam's natural resources and manpower.

Now Hanoi has become the 170th world capital with which Seoul has diplomatic representation. It is hoped that we will be able to establish diplomatic ties with Vietnam's two neighboring countries, Laos and Cambodia, thereby helping restore peace and prosperity in that part of the world.

'High Point' in No's Policy

SK2312024292 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 23 Dec 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Relations With Vietnam"]

[Text] The current visit of Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok in Vietnam to sign an agreement for normalization of relations is highly significant as it restores the bilateral ties which were once interrupted by the Vietnam War in the 1960s and the 1970s. It marks another high point in President No Tae-u's northern politics aimed at former socialist countries.

The resumption of diplomatic relations between Seoul and Hanoi rounds off the vigorous and successful search of the Sixth Republic to build good links with all previous East bloc members. Normalization with Vietnam means our regained entry into Indochina, leading gradually into the neighboring Laos and Cambodia. Korea's participation in the Vietnam conflict should now be regarded as so much water under the bridge.

The swift growth of Korean-Vietnamese relations in recent years, as shown by the expansion of trade, has been promoted by the shared awareness of the two governments and peoples that the importance of future cooperation far outweighs the undesirable legacies of the past. The common background of Asian culture and history, reinforced by a bitter experience in colonial subjugation and territorial division, is conducive to broad and productive cooperation between the two nations with their mutually complementary economies.

Vietnam is rich in natural endowments with many resources as well as a large population and land mass. Its strategic location combines with these conditions to make it one of the leading countries in Southeast Asia. Even though it still retains a socialist system, Vietnam's economy has been greatly liberalized. Its dynamic modernization campaign in the name of Doi Moi has been successful in invigorating the languid economy with the input of much foreign investment and technology.

Korea has become a major trading partner of Vietnam with two-way trade volume topping $250 million by the end of September this year and over 30 companies having set up shop there. The initiation of full diplomatic ties is certain to provide impetus to the growth of trade and economic cooperation in other areas. It will pave the way for our involvement in the massive Mekong delta development project next year.

Both countries should begin by wiping the slate clean and work together with an open mind to strengthen their partnership for the good of the region as well as the two nations.

SRV, DPRK Relations Still Strong

SK2212062992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0515 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi, Dec. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Vietnam skirted settlement of their unfortunate past in the process of diplomatic normalization.

Visiting South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok paid respects at the national cemetery in Ho Chi Minh City on Tuesday morning in a gesture of appeasement for Seoul's participation in the Vietnam war.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam called Yi's visit symbolic of "new bilateral relations," emphasizing the future rather than the past.

South Korean Foreign Ministry officials said that Seoul's involvement in the Vietnam war was during the Cold War, but they still recognized the need to heal the wounds.

Yi said South Korea will give priority consideration to Vietnam in extending Economic Development and Cooperation Fund (EDCF) loans, expand technical training programs and dispatch large groups of youth volunteers.

"The Vietnamese Government, worried at possible North Korean retaliation for Seoul-Hanoi diplomatic normalization, took action to keep North Korean Embassy officials "from taking a single step outside," claims Pak No-su, chief of the South Korean liaison office in Hanoi.

The North Korean Embassy, with 10 staff members and about 40 dependents, is a 10-minute drive from the liaison office. But Pak denied reports that Pyongyang may sever ties with Hanoi in objection to Vietnam's relations with South Korea.

Pyongyang-Hanoi ties, nonetheless, are still strong. When Yi explained North Korea's suspected nuclear development program to Cam, the Vietnamese foreign minister asked whether it wasn't extremely cooperative of North Korea to accept inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Increase in Business Expected

SK2212034992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—Diplomatic normalization by South Korea and Vietnam is expected to boost economic exchanges centering on construction projects.

Korean firms have had to go behind the scenes so far due to U.S. economic sanctions against the communist country and Korea's lack of diplomatic ties.

As the two stumbling blocks are on the verge of going down in history, a Vietnam rush by Korean businesses similar to the China rush after Seoul and Beijing recognized each other in August is assured.

Samsung Co. landed in Vietnam 10 years ago, the first Korean firm to arrive, and is shifting from exchange-oriented projects to investment-oriented projects.

It plans to set up wrapping material, meat processing and polyester textiles plants, and participate in port development and construction projects worth 51 million U.S. dollars.

Hyundai has agreed to build an electric line linking Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh city and a joint-venture distillery. Hyundai will actively push for civil engineering projects in Vietnam such as road construction between Hanoi and Haiphong and facility expansion in Haiphon Bay by taking advantage of its overseas construction experience.

Sixteen companies won 83 million dollars of construction orders from Vietnam before its communization in 1975. Hyundai grasped the first order, 5 million dollars for dredging Cam Ranh Bay, in January 1966.

Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co., Daewoo Corp., Samsung Construction Co., Daelim Industrial Co. and six-odd other Korean construction firms frequently send officials to Vietnam to sound out the possiblity of construction deals with the government.

The United States has imposed economic sanctions on Vietnam since it lost the war against the Communists in 1975, barring foreign investment, but began to allow business activities on Dec. 14. The U.S. Government is expected to lift the sanctions in late January or early

March, expediting the advancement into Vietnam by Korean companies that are Hungry for investment outlets.

The war-torn country is in dire need of infrastructure such as roads and ports, attracting Korean construction firms, sources say. International banking organizations are likely to loosen their reins on Vietnam, allowing loans in the near future, which will help companies seeking to invest in Vietnam. Vietnam is to rehabilitate roads, bridges, ports, airports and communications facilities from spring with foreign loans, the sources say, adding that the projects will cost around 1 billion dollars.

Daewoo has signed 65 million dollars of contracts, including construction of a 300-room hotel and automobile assembly line, and opening a joint-invested bank with Vietnam.

Lucky-Goldstar International Corp. won a bid to set up a time division exchange network between Hanoi and Haiphong and is to put up a 10-floor office building in Ho Chi Minh city for 2 million dollars. It is pushing ahead with the construction of a joint- venture cement factory as well.

Pohang Iron and Steel Co. (POSCO) has chosen Vietnam as a strategic investment object and is moving fast to strike deals with the Vietnamese Government. POSCO has agreed to take part in the Hanoi-Haiphong highway construction project and is pursuing large projects such as factories for agricultural chemicals and steel reinforcing rods.

Sangyong Corp. is to set up factories producing polypropylene bags and fertilizers sacks and is pushing for a silica mine development project.

Hyosung Corp. has drawn up a plan to erect plants for tires and sewing materials.

Pangrim Spinning Co. made plans to invest 12 million dollars in a factory in suburban Hanoi to produce 2 million yards of cotton fabrics a month for consumption in Korea.

Choongnam Spinning Co. has received a permit for a 14 million-dollar Vietnam investment project from the government.

An eight-member Korean consortium including state-invested Korea Petroleum Development Corp., Sangyong Corp., Samsung Co., Hyundai Corp. and Daewoo Corp. is competing with Japanese and Australian consortia for the development right of the Big Bear oil field, estimated to have 800-900 million barrels of reserves.

Vietnam Refugees Concerned

SK2312041392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0301 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Pusan, South Korea, Dec. 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—Seoul and Hanoi celebrated the restoration of ties Tuesday after a 17-year break, but a group of Vietnamese people looked on with unease.

Some 1,380 Vietnamese boat people fled to South Korea between 1974 and 1988, and 150 of them remain in this city at refugee camps after others were resettled in Canada, Australia and other third countries.

Without nationality, restricted from going outside and barred from taking jobs, the boat people worry about being forced back home.

South Korea and Vietnam reopened relations that were cut off in 1975 after North Vietnam's Communist forces defeated the U.S.-backed Saigon government.

Seoul had fought for Saigon, too, sending 300,000 soldiers.

Many of the early boat arrivers were social leaders fleeing persecution under the communist regime, but those who came from the 1980s were escaping poverty.

Boat people continued to come until Vietnam, overcome by its economic problems, began to open up to the west in the mid-1980s.

The Korean National Red Cross (KNRC) operates the refugee camps on fund assistance from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and lucky are those who have relatives successfully resettled in third countries who send them money. Their only allowed outing is to a nearby market for shopping every Tuesday in groups of 10.

KNRC officials say the UNHCR will ultimately decide the fate of these Vietnamese people but add they do not know how the commission will decide.

South Korea joined the convention relating to the status of refugees earlier this month, and the convention takes effect next March. According to the convention, South Korea independently judges whether the fleers are indeed refugees. If they are judged refugees, the Seoul government must either give them the same treatment as nationals or at least the same status as other foreign residents. Convention members cannot send the refugees to areas or countries where their lives are threatened.

"Status of refugees may be raised diplomatically after Seoul and Hanoi exchange embassies," an immigration official said. "We could consider sending back people who want to reclaim their Vietnamese nationality, but there aren't likely to be any boat people who want to reclaim their old citizenship," he said.

Thirty-seven of the refugees here were successfully resettled in New Zealand last April to work at sheep farms, but other nations have grown more reluctant over the recent years to accept these boat people. "We want to resettle in Australia or the United States. We have relatives there," says Tran Van Gan, 42, who led his group of nine on an escape boat to South Korea back in 1988. "But they won't accept us because of problems about supporting us," says Gan. "We worry about being sent home. It's a common worry among all refugees."

Government Rejects Proposal on JNCC Talks

SK2312083992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0822 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—Prospects for working-level nuclear talks between South and North Korea turned uncertain Wednesday as Seoul rejected a proposal to meet Thursday.

Kong No-myong, Seoul-side chairman of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC), sent a message to his Pyongyang counterpart, Choe U-chin, suggesting that the working-level negotiations be on Dec. 28 instead.

He flatly refused Choe's proposal earlier in the day for a full JNCC session on Dec. 28, saying such a meeting should be held only after working-level contacts had fully agreed on a simultaneous nuclear inspection regime.

South Korea's move is apparently a protest against what officials here say are North Korea's delaying tactics.

North Korea insists on full JNCC sessions to show Japan and the United States that it is participating in nuclear talks with South Korea, while at the same time it is refusing working-level contacts that require real negotiations, JNCC sources here said.

Seoul and Pyongyang agreed a year ago to conduct simultaneous nuclear inspections, talks since have stalled on North Korea's refusal to accept surprise inspections or to open up its military installations.

Pyongyang has lately used JNCC sessions to object to the annual South Korea-U.S. military exercise "Team Spirit," saying it cannot participate in nuclear talks unless Seoul cancels the maneuvers. The exercise was canceled this year, but it is likely to resume next year.

"North Korea is apparently not interested in making progress in the negotiations. It keeps dragging on with JNCC sessions to prevent Seoul from announcing resumption of Team Spirit," Chong Tae-ik, vice chairman of JNCC, said. "We need to think about a strategy of our own so as not to be drawn into North Korea's tactic," he said.

Seoul is to announce Team Spirit's schedule, usually held in March or April, next month.

ICAO To Reopen KAL Investigation

SK2112011592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0104 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] New York, Dec. 20 (YONHAP)—The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) voted Friday to reopen its investigation into the 1983 shooting down of Korean Air Lines flight 007 by a Soviet fighter.

"The meeting approved a resolution that if the black box and related materials were handed over by Russia, the investigation should be completed at the earliest possible date," head South Korean delegate Kim Yong-sop, consul-general in Montreal, said Sunday.

"ICAO will request a third country with specialized technology investigate the black box and related materials and technicians of South Korea, Russia, the United States and Japan will be admitted in the investigation procedure."

The U.N. agency made the decision a week after the countries involved—Russia, the United States, Japan and South Korea—agreed in Moscow on Dec. 8 to turn over the black box and other materials missing from the initial investigation.

Lack of evidence hog-tied the first investigation into the shooting on Sept. 1, 1983, in which all 269 people aboard were killed.

Editorial Urges End to Russian-PRC Arms Deals

SK2112134592 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 21 Dec 92 p 3

[Editorial: "The Bright and Dark Sides of Sino-Russian 'Friendly Relations'"]

[Text] With Russian President Yeltsin's visit to China marking a turning point, Russia and China have entered into a new relationship stressing "friendly relations." It is a desirable development that the two major powers of Eurasia close to our country have reestablished their relations in accordance with international detente. We cannot help but monitor the shockwave it is likely to cause.

In the history of Sino-Russian relations, the two countries were once allies sharing a similar ideology and then were in conflict over ideology. Now Sino-Russian "friendly relations," disregarding ideology, will contribute to building general peace. These relations can, however, as in the case of relations between other countries, also intensify international competition while the two countries are pursuing their own national interests. The likelihood of such a development is supported by the 21-point joint statement and some 20 agreements on economic, scientific, and technological cooperation signed during President Yeltsin's China visit.

What attracts our attention in Sino-Russian "friendly relations" is the cooperation in the economic and military fields. Russia and China mutually supplement each other in resources. The cheap consumer goods of China can now be exported to Russia in mass quantities. This years $5 billion in Sino-Russian trade can drastically increase with the initiation of new relations. Here we should squarely see the limited potential of our country's export of consumer goods to China and Russia because of our high production costs. We should not be overly optimistic about the fruition of the northern policy in the economic area.

To infiltrate into the Russian and Chinese markets, we should not simply apply the trade pattern applied to the countries experimenting with the introduction of capitalism. We should explore the relations of economic cooperation which are one step higher than that. In this respect, we should seriously consider participation in the Russian project of converting the defense industry into a civilian industry. This will enable us to combine our knowhow with Russia's modern science and technology.

What concerns us most in the initiation of the Sino-Russian "friendly relations" is Russia's arms sales to China. Russia, which has already sold to China 24 Sukhoi-27's and an antiaircraft defense system, is reported to have agreed to provide $1 billion worth of weapons and military technology to China. Russia, having an enormous arsenal of powerful weapons, may think that the arms sale of this magnitude will not affect its national security. If China builds up its defense with modern weapons while the United States reduces its armed forces in Northeast Asia, it will tempt Japan to buildup its arms, thereby creating tensions in this region.

Furthermore, if China, which has been exporting arms to the Middle East, produces high quality arms with the military technology obtained from Russia and sells them to a third country, the world's peace structure will be affected. The countries of the world should join efforts to stop the Sino-Russian military cooperation that centers on arms sales.

Seoul To Discuss Aid to UN Operation in Somalia

SK2212083792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0824 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—The government will soon convene an inter-ministerial meeting to decide the scope of South Korea's contributions, including financial and military, to U.N. relief operations in Somalia, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday.

The United Nations had officially asked South Korea to make financial contributions to its efforts in somalia, Kim Chae-sop, director-general of the international organizations bureau, said. There is no deadline for a response and the United Nations did not recommend specific amounts, Kim said.

Japan has pledged 100 million U.S. dollars, for example, and Saudi Arabia has promised 10 million dollars.

"We plan to call a meeting as soon as possible, within this month, to discuss what and how much we can donate," Kim said.

The inter-ministerial meeting is to discuss possible dispatch of South Korean troops to the U.N. peacekeeping operations [PKO] that will take over the relief efforts after "operation restore hope."

"The United Nations is expected to ask its member nations to dispatch their troops as soon as it decides on the size of the PKO required in Somalia," said Kim. This would be around next February, since operation restore hope will last between two to four months and PKO forces are to take over afterward.

South Korea notified the United Nations in September that it was able to dispatch a military contingent of 540 foot soldiers and medical staff.

Warships on 'Friendly Visit' to Egyptian Port

SK2112091292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0641 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—South Korean warships on a friendly visit entered the port of Alexandria in Egypt on Monday for the first time in history, a Korean Navy spokesman said.

Sailors from the Chungnam and Masan were welcomed warmly by Korean residents and naval authorities, he said. The ships are to stay for four days before passing through the Suez Canal and sailing to Saudi Arabia and Malaysia.

They left Chinhae, a naval base in South Kyongsang Province, on Sept. 14 and are on voyage around the world in 130 days.

The ships, carrying 47 midshipmen of the South Korean Naval Academy are to return to Chinhae on Jan. 21.

Egypt has no diplomatic relations with South Korea.

GATT Talks Stalled Over U.S.-EC Conflict

SK1912042592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0221 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Brussels, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—Arthur Dunkel, director-general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), said Friday that the Trade Negotiating Commission [TNC] would be convened regularly at short intervals from Jan. 15 for the early conclusion of the Uruguay Round trade talks.

He told the 24th TNC meeting Friday that the trade talks were in the final stage and that holding the next TNC meeting in mid-January did not mean the stoppage of negotiations.

GATT officials said, however, Dunkel seemed to be giving up negotiations with the Bush administration and to be seeking a settlement with Bill Clinton's government.

South Korean Ambassador to Geneva Pak Su-kil told Friday's meeting that it was regretful that the issue of agricultural trade involving other countries was not even discussed because of the U.S.-European Community dispute. He expressed hope that the talks would be settled in the TNC meeting in January through the political resolution of the participating countries.

In a separate move, Korea and EC signed a fiber agreement extending EC import quotas by three years through 1995 at an annual increase of 6 percent.

The two sides set the 1993 volume at 4,950 tons, up 25.4 percent from 1991.

EC No Longer Demands Shipbuilding Subsidy Cut

SK1912021492 Seoul YONHAP in English 2322 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] Brussels, Dec. 18 (YONHAP)—The European Community (EC) will no longer demand that South Korea reduce government subsidies for its shipbuilding industry, EC officials said Friday.

The officials said the EC had hoped that the world's leading shipbuilding nations would follow suit EC member countries voluntarily reduced their government subsidies from 28 percent to 9 percent in recent years.

Since it had failed to induce the desired response, however, the officials said, the EC had decided not to press its members to further cut government subsidies from this year.

The EC made the decision after its negotiations on the issue with South Korea and Japan broke down.

As a result, the EC is expected to propose maintaining the current rate of government subsidy of 9 percent for next year when it convenes a meeting of the EC Commission next week, the officials said.

Shipbuilders Earned Large Surpluses in 1992

SK2112115892 Seoul YONHAP in English 1054 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—The country's shipbuilders are enjoying unprecedentedly large surpluses this year, but are facing a bleak period next year due to a dwindling backlog of orders.

A source at the Korea Shipbuilders Association said Monday that in the first 11 months of this year, shipbuilders in the country built vessles with combined tonnage of 4,430,000 tons, already more than last whole year's 4,420,000 tons. The total tonnage is expected to easily surpass 5 million tons.

As a result, profits among shipbuilders are expected to reach about 700 billion won (888.32 million U.S. dollars) this year.

Hyundai heavy industries co., alone, is to build ships totaling 2 million tons by the end of the year to reap a current account surplus of about 300 billion won, 50 billion won more than last year.

However, as the backlog of orders has declined to less than 5 million tons for the first time since 1987, next year's vessel construction would total about 4,080,000 tons, down 18.3 percent from this year.

The country built 3,350,000 tons of ships in 1988, 2,920,000 tons in 1989, 3,570,000 tons in 1990 and 4,420,000 tons in 1991.

Samsung, Texas Instruments Plan Venture

SK1612092392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0840 GMT 16 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 16 (YONHAP)—Samsung Electronics Co. exchanged a letter of intent [LOI] with Texas Instruments Inc. Wednesday on building a joint-venture semiconductor factory in Portugal, a company spokesman said.

Samsung is to re-equip a small semiconductor assembly factory in Porto operated by Texas Instruments since 1973 for production of semiconductors, including memory chips.

Samsung and Texas Instruments are consulting with the Portuguese Government on the project and production is to start in the second half of next year, the spokesman said.

The project is important for Samsung as it will give the company its first semiconductor production site in Europe, he said.

Bank Increases Funding for Research, Development

SK1912033692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 19 Dec 92 p 18

[Text] Korea Development Bank [KDB] announced it has set aside 6.96 trillion won for next year's business projects including financial support for manufacturers to enhance their international competitiveness.

The amount is a 15.9 percent increase over this year's.

Announcing its business plans for next year, the bank said it will concentrate its financial support in boosting the restructuring of industries by expanding loans for projects linked to high-tech development and expansion of social infrastructures.

Especially, the KDB will give top priority on extending facility loans for promising small-and medium-sized companies to help them flex their exporting muscles.

The bank decided to reduce its overseas borrowings from 2.5 billion dollars this year to 2.05 billion dollars next year.

It is believed that the bank reduced the foreign loans in line with the government's prodding of financial institutions to refrain from borrowing funds overseas.

The financial authorities had difficulties in cushioning the impact of the increasing foreign money inflow in various economic sectors including monetary policies and foreign exchange controls in November. It is expected that the foreign money inflow will continue to increase next year.

The KDB will borrow about 3.4 billion dollars from the Bank of Korea and will generate about 6.5 trillion won by issuing bonds, compared with 5.9 trillion won in 1992.

Domestic small- and medium-sized companies are losing their export market shares due to declining competitiveness.

To support their bid for industrial restructuring, the KDB earmarked 3.3 trillion won for manufacturers to expand facility investment, an increase of 62.8 percent from this year.

To help them develop advanced technology, it plans to make available 800 billion won for R&D [research and development] projects. For expanding social infrastructure such as roads, it will set aside about one trillion won.

U.S. Urges Accumulated Earnings Tax Elimination

SK1712045492 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Dec 92 p 10

[Text] The United States has called on Korea to remove what it calls discriminatory application of the "accumulated earnings tax (AET)" that hampers the operations of unlisted American companies here.

The request was said to have been made last week to the Ministry of Finance, sources said.

Since 1991, certain unlisted companies in Korea may be subject to an accumulated earnings tax on their tax base income, in addition to paying a corporate income tax.

The AET is imposed regardless of whether the corporation can demonstrate that retention of earnings is necessary to support the reasonable business needs of the corporation, according to the U.S. argument.

The AET is imposed at the rate of 26.875 percent on "excessive retained earnings," defined as the amount of distributable income less dividends in excess of 40 percent of distributable income. (Distributable income is tax basis income less corporate income tax and allowable reserves.)

Washington said with borrowing constrained, retention of earnings is one of the few avenues available to foreign-invested firms to provide working capital for their expansion of operations in Korea.

A Ministry of Finance official said the U.S. logic may mislead the uninformed general public, adding that firms here can accumulate earnings, equal to half of their capital, for business expansion. Therefore, it is not logical for Washington to say that the AET prevents foreign-invested firms from generating working capital for their expansion.

The official said the MOF will hold a formal meeting with American businessmen here, through the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea, to hear their views and explain the true meaning of the AET.

He said, "the AET is not designed to hinder business operations of foreign-invested firms."

The Office of National Tax Administration said categorically that the objective of the accumulated earnings tax was to force unlisted domestic and foreign companies to go public.

Washington argued that the AET, since it is acknowledged to have the objective of forcing private companies to go public, contradicts an existing understanding between Seoul and Washington that foreign-invested corporations in existence prior to June 30, 1988, will be exempt from the go-public policy.

The U.S. contends that the AET will encourage dividends rather than encourage retention of earnings to bolster the financial strength of highly leveraged Korean firms.

Although the United States also has provisions for an accumulated earnings tax, the U.S. tax is not imposed if the accumulation of earnings is for a legitimate business purpose, such as future financing needs and expansion, Washington said.

Furthermore, it said the U.S. does not impose the AET on private companies exclusively, adding that the United States also provides for an accumulated earnings credit to offset earnings to the retained earnings tax. It said Korean law makes no such allowances.

The Korean tax office said that the imposition of the AET is necessary to equitably distribute the tax burden among listed and unlisted companies for the equalization of the domestic tax rate.

Washington said Korea should remove the discriminatory application of the AET by preferably eliminating it. If it can not be eliminated, then the AET should be applied to all public and private corporations and allow for a tax exemption for the accumulation of earnings for legitimate business purposes, it said.

Washington has also asked the Ministry of Finance to provide a mechanism whereby a certain portion of accumulated earning may be protected, similar to those credits given by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

Finance Ministry Said 'Influencing' Stock Market

SK1912034292 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 19 Dec 92 p 18

[Text] The Ministry of Finance [MOF] is suspected of intentionally influencing the stock market on the eve of the election Thursday when Kim Yong-sam visited there.

News that Kim would be visiting stock exchange circulated Thursday morning.

Many brokers here claimed that to help his chances of winning, the Ministry of Finance asked financial institutions to refrain from selling.

But feeling uncertain about the market after the election, individuals were generally sellers Thursday. The likelihood of a Kim Tae-chung victory had Cholla-based company stocks such as Kumho soaring, a foreign broker said.

As the market was about to close lower, the MOF came up with a novel idea apparently to boost the stock index. Four minutes before the closing bell, the KSE [Korea Stock Exchange] computer system was "curiously" turned off, allowing extra time for the government-controlled stock market stabilization fund and domestic financial institutions to place new orders, local brokers said.

As a result, they came in within massive buying orders to reverse the index from minus 1.5 to plus 6.5 points at closing. As a result, almost 20 percent of the total deals transacted Thursday happened in the last few minutes of trading, they said.

Curiously, the KSE computer was turned off at the time of the stock market stabilization fund's aggressive buying.

A KSE computer operator said due to a sudden and massive buying order, the computer system became overloaded.

Although MOF officials flatly denied the allegation, the stock market stabilization fund placed 100 billion won worth of buying orders 10 minutes before the closing bell Thursday.

Such an episode has greatly tarnished the image of the MOF, which must remain neutral and impartial in stock market monitoring, a Western broker said.

With the presidential election over, the MOF's suspicious attitude will have serious repercussions; he and many other expatriate brokers said.

Today, the MOF may tell the stock market stabilization fund and domestic financial institutions to refrain from selling to "please the newly-elected president," critics speculate.

If the stock market suddenly falls today, the MOF may be criticized for not managing the market to the embarrassment of the president-elect, they said.

Since August 24 when the MOF issued an administrative guidance to local institutional investors to become net buyers of stocks, the MOF has retaken its previous power to control the movement of the stock market, observers said.

They said the downside risks for the stock market is quite limited in the future as the MOF is in full control of local financial institutions.

Bush, Chancellor Kohl Congratulate Kim Yong-sam

SK2312104092 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 1000 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl sent congratulatory messages respectively to President-elect Kim Yong-sam on 23 December. They congratulated his election to the Presidency and hoped for continuous development of friendly and cooperative relations between the ROK and the United States, and the ROK and Germany.

In his congratulatory message, U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton said that the election of candidate Kim Yong-sam showed the Korean people's resolute will for democracy. He assessed the election as a very important event in the history of the ROK. He said that he hopes to convey his intention of maintaining close and friendly relations between the two countries to the Korean people.

In his congratulatory message, German Chancellor Kohl said that he hopes that President-elect Kim Yong-sam will become a strong and successful president who is also a responsible president. He said that he will visit the ROK in early March of next year. He is happy that he will be able to meet President-elect Kim Yong-sam soon.

Kim Yong-sam To Form Transition Team in Jan

SK2112015492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0038 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam plans to form a committee early in January to facilitate a smooth transfer of power from President No Tae-u in February, sources in Kim's Democratic Liberal Party say.

Kim, elected the nation's 14th president Friday, will seek advice from leaders of various sectors in the selection of people to man major posts of his administration, the sources said Sunday.

The committee will prepare for his inauguration, believed to be around Feb. 20, and set immediate goals for national policies. In addition, Kim was reportedly considering the formation of what is being called "the new Korea construction committee" to set the direction for national policy reforms, the sources said.

Kim will establish "the party reform committee" to work out reforms not only of his party's operations but also of the nation's election system, the sources said.

Along with reforms in the government, Kim also wants to bring changes in the party, the sources added.

The transition committee will recommend a prime minister, who will then recommend a cabinet for Kim's approval, aides said, requesting anonymity.

"President-elect Kim has already made it known that his administration will be quite different from that of President No Tae-u," he said. "In order to build a new Korea, he will solicit participation from diverse segments of the country."

Presidential Appointee Nomination Process Noted

SK2112071792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0558 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—The question of the day in South Korea is how far President-elect Kim Yong-sam will go in filling choice positions in government with his own people.

Posts held by political appointees are estimated at 3,000 in the executive branch and state-invested organizations.

The first targets are naturally the prime minister and the 120 positions that carry the rank of minister or vice minister.

In addition to the 24 members of the cabinet, minister-level posts include the heads of the Board of Audit and Inspection, the Presidential Secretariat, the Presidential Security Service, the Agency for National Security Planning, the Emergency Planning Committee, the Office of Legislation, the Patriots and Veterans Affairs Agency and the Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification.

The 60 vice minister-level posts cover deputy heads of 22 ministries and agencies, chiefs of 12 government offices, top aides to the first and the second state ministers for political affairs, deputy chiefs of the Presidential Security Service, the Emergency Planning Committee, the Advisory Council on Democratic and Peaceful Unification, the Office of Legislation, the Patriots and Veterans Affairs Agency, chief secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, secretary-general and six inspectors of the Board of Audit and Inspection, head of the Office of Administrative Coordination under the prime minister's office, the fair trade commission, and deputy Seoul mayor.

Chiefs of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, Appeals Commission, the Central Officials Training Institute, the National History Compilation Committee and the National Board of Educational Evaluation are also vice minister-level officials appointed by the president.

The president also appoints the governors and mayors of 19 provinces and cities, and his 10 presidential secretaries.

He has appointment power over all 32,000 public officials of grade-five or above, but this responsibility is traditionally delegated to the ministers for all but grade-one posts. Grade-one rank officials, assistant minister-level or above, can be replaced by the president whenever he feels like it under the law on public servants.

In the judiciary, the chief executive wields appointment power only over the chief justice and 13 justices of the Supreme Court. He needs the National Assembly's approval for the appointment of the chief justice, and is required to appoint the justices at the recommendation of the chief justice and to get approval from the Assembly.

In the prosecution, the president can appoint chiefs of five high and 12 district prosecutor's offices, but usually takes the advice of the justice minister and prosecutor-general.

The Armed Forces are totally under the president's control, so he has real power to fire the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the commanders of the Army, Air Force and Navy.

Presidential power of appointment reaches to the heads of all state-owned banks, including the Bank of Korea, and the presidents of national universities.

He can name the presidents of the state-controlled Korea Development Bank, the Export and Import Bank of Korea, the Korea Industrial Bank, the Citizens National Bank and the Office of Bank Supervision.

Heads of 26 state-financed firms such as the Korea Security Printing and Minting Corp., the Korea Stock Exchange, Dae Han Coal Corp., the Korea Electric Power Corp. and the Korea Water Resources Corp. are chosen by the president.

He hires and fires the presidents of 24 national universities, the dean of the Korea Air and Correspondence University, the heads of 11 teachers' colleges and the chiefs of five provincial colleges, but usually stays out of personnel reshuffles to allow some educational autonomy.

The presidential power of appointment pervades almost all top posts at ministries and public organs, and the transition team will focus first on forming the State Council and the Presidential Secretariat, analysts say.

Defense Minister Views Replacement's Experience

SK2112150692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0807 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—Defense Minister Choe Sae-chang called Monday for President-elect Kim Yong-sam to name a former military officer as his defense minister.

"In my personal opinion, a former military officer should be in charge of the Defense Ministry for the time being, when we consider the security situation on the Korean peninsula," Choe said.

He also said that Col. Kim Tae-kyon, removed as head of the Defense Security Command in Pusan for attending a controversial meeting of top officials of local government agencies before the presidential election, did not talk about the election campaign in the meeting.

An inquiry was being carried out by the Defense Security Command, a ministry official said, and when the National Institute of Scientific Investigation had completed its analysis of a tape of the meeting the military prosecution would start an investigation.

Kim Yong-sam Emphasizes Need for People's Unity

SK2212105792 Seoul YONHAP in English 1042 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam Tuesday emphasized the need of a grand unity of the people, stating "one of the most important tasks now is to bind the people together into oneness."

"Based on the coalesced strength of the people, we should further develop our economy and achieve national unification," Kim said.

He made the remarks in his first public speech after his election at his Democratic Liberal Party's victory reception held at the party's Karak-tong training center.

On unification, Kim said he would try to materialize peaceful unification step by step in a way that doesn't place unification above national security nor place national security above unification.

Observing his party's election victory was owing to "our people's maturity and greatness," Kim said he would try to make a new country where "we all can be proud of having been born in Korea in this age."

Kim Yong-sam Praises 'New Election Culture'

SK2212020692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0030 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam said Tuesday that the winners in Friday's election were the Korean people, who had created a new election culture.

"The presidential election was not only my victory, but also the great people's," he told reporters at his home in Sangdo-tong. "Because now is unlike the new government in 1988, which had a lot on its shoulders such as shaking off the fifth republic and going through a general election, I can settle every sort of problem, including the economic recovery, one by one with detailed preparations," he said.

Repeating his thanks to the people for their support, Kim said that he recognized an immense development of cultural standards on seeing the election result. "It is the fall of authority and order due to overturned values that is the real problem of our society today," Kim said, promising to be an education president and resolve this kind of problem with strong leadership.

Economic Groups Ask Kim Yong-sam for Assistance

SK1912045092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0244 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (YONHAP)—President-elect Kim Yong-sam should concentrate on supporting small- and medium-sized industrial companies and revitalizing the economy, Korean economic organizations said Saturday.

The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) called for Kim to revamp economic management with internationalism and strengthen the market economy.

It suggested that the government abolish credit control and strengthen fair trade system, privatize public companies, supply land based on market principles and promote social welfare.

The Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the Korea Federation of Small Business (KFSB) appealed for active measures to uplift the economy by stabilizing and nurturing the growth potential of companies.

Now that the presidential election is over, everyone in the business world should join efforts to get the economy back on track, the economic organizations said.

Businesses Move To Adapt to Political Change

SK1912102792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0949 GMT 19 Dec 92

[By Kim Sun-han]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (YONHAP)—South Korea's major business conglomerates are racking their brains to work out measures by which they can best adapt to the changing economic environment under Kim Yong-sam, the next president.

The conglomerates, called "chaebol" in Korea, are most interested in how the election would make a dent in their standings.

A change in the groups' lineup would be inevitable, business observers predict, noting the election drew a vivid line of demarcation between proponents and opponents of each presidential candidate among the conglomerates.

As things stand, Korean businesses have undergone ups and downs with the transition of government since they have not been independent from the political influence.

The observers say that four of the groups are relatively on good terms with the winner while two have a low profile with him.

Lucky-Goldstar Group stands atop in the list of pro-Kim conglomerates and is likely to make a big progress under the next government, the observers say.

Lucky, now standing third after Hyundai and Samsung, was created in Pusan, Kim's political bastion, and has thus kept a good relationship with him.

For that matter, Lotte Busines Group shares a rosy picture. Lotte has also maintained friendship and local lineage with Kim. Lotte Chairman Sin Kyuk-ho is known to be a close friend of the next president's. The relationships, the observers view, may be instrumental in solving the problem involving Lotte's ownership of a sizeable lot in southern Seoul and other concerns bothering the group.

Hanjin Business Group, the owner of Korean Air (KAL), and Hanil Business Group, one of the major synthetic fiber makers in Korea, are believed to be on friendly terms with the president-elect and are expected to get favors in expanding their ventures in the future.

In sharp contrast, the nation's largest conglomerate, Hyundai Business Group, is worried if it would be hit hardest when its awkward relationship with Kim is taken into account. Hyundai has overtly campaigned for Chong Chu-yong, its founder who ran against Kim in the presidential race as the candidate of the United People's Party (UPP).

Hyundai's unreserved support for Chong has resulted in massive arrests of its employees and is widely believed to have kindled investigations into its subsidiaries on suspicion of diverting huge sums of "secret funds" to the UPP coffer. At least 11 affiliates of the group, including Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. and Hyundai Motors Co., a cream of the group, are crippled as many of their executives are now under arrest or at large.

Though Kim has repeatedly advocated the politics of "grand reconciliation," the incumbent government may try to cut off the ties Hyundai has held with UPP, the observers say. Hyundai is making every effort to put its operation back on the track, while keeping a watchful eye on the movements of Kim and the government.

Daewoo Business Group, whose Chairman Kim U-chung was once at odds with the next president while attempting to turn himself into a presidential candidate, must be feeling uneasy too, the observers say.

Polls Accurately Reflected Election Results

SK2112072592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0639 GMT 21 Dec 92

[By Kim Sun-han]

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—Korea's pollsters were banned from telling anyone what their polls revealed before the election, but now that it is over they are crowing about the accuracy of their predictions.

Korea Gallup poll and Chungang On-Line Information and News Service (JOINS) and Media Research say they had expected Kim Yong-sam to win, and that he would beat Kim Tae-chung by a margin of 6 to 9 percentage points.

They say that they predicted that Chong Chu-yong would at best garner around 15 percent of the vote.

In the final tally, Kim Yong-sam obtained 41.4 percent, Kim Tae-chung 33.4 percent and Chong Chu-yong 16.1 percent.

The companies say they came so close by using "discriminant analysis" to account for voters who hadn't decided or refused to disclose their choice. "Floating votes" accounted for approximately 30 percent prior to Dec. 18.

In discriminant analysis, a pollster estimates a voter's preference based on his or her job, education, age and regional background. They say this method narrows the margin of error to plus or minus 2 percentage points.

Gallup questioned 2,250 voters on Dec. 14 and came up with the results 29.5 percent for Kim Yong-sam, 26 percent for Kim Tae-chung and 10.5 percent for Chong Chu-yong. After discriminant analysis, Gallup says, its figures were 39.3 percent for Kim Yong-sam, 31.1 percent for Kim Tae-chung and 15.7 percent for Chong Chu-yong.

Media Research polled 1,000 voters one day before the election and found 31.4 percent for Kim Yong-sam, 26.6 percent for Kim Tae-chung and 10.5 percent for Chong Chu-yong, but analysis amended that to 39.6 percent, 32 percent and 13.5 percent, respectively.

JOINS drew a projection of 43.3 percent, 30.6 percent and 15.1 percent on Dec. 15 from 1,000 voters, while Dongso Research obtained a projection of 37-30-15.

"Most of the polling institutions had conducted polls on the topic since May this year," a senior Gallup pollster says. "In particular, they took the surveys once a week after the election date was noticed."

Major conglomerates conducted their own surveys through affiliates specializing in advertising and collected information on the promising candidates.

The Samsung Group, for instance, mobilized 60,000 insurance salesmen to collect information on the candidates and conducted a survey through the Korea Advertising Co., a subsidiary.

The group compiled a comprehensive report on the election that contains estimated votes for the candidates and their impact on business operation and the economy.

The Lucky-Goldstar, Hyundai and Lotte groups also conducted surveys through their subsidiaries.

A government agency took a survey that projected a result of 28- 22-11.8.

A polling company executive in Seoul said Korean pollsters made big strides in accuracy during the election and the law should be rewritten so that results of the polls can be fully announced during the election campaign.

Coleader of UPP Retiring From Politics

SK1912111692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0813 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 19 (YONHAP)—Chae Mun-sik, a co-leader of the United People's Party [UPP], said Saturday he was retiring from the party and active politics.

Meeting reporters hours after the party suffered a humiliating setback in the 14th presidential election, Chae said he had planned, even before he joined the party, to leave it after the election.

UPP candidate Chong Chu-yong, founder of the Hyundai Business Group, finished third in the just-ended election.

Spokesman Denies UPP's Spy Ring Allegation

SK1512104492 Seoul YONHAP in English 1014 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 15 (YONHAP)—A Chongwadae [presidential residence] spokesman Tuesday flatly denied the allegation made by the United People's Party that [UPP] "a Chongwadae official was involved in a North Korean espionage ring," and warned that Chongwadae would not stand idle if the UPP continues to make unfounded charges against the presidential office.

The UPP led by Chong Chu-yong, quoting a report by an American columnist, alleged that "even a Chongwadae official was involved" in the recently uncovered large espionage ring controlled by North Korea.

"We are enraged at the UPP's ridiculous charges. If the party is sure about a Chongwadae official's involvement, it should disclose who was he and how he got involved in it," Kim Hak-chun, presidential press secretary, said.

Kim said he would like to take the occasion to say clearly that no Chongwadae official was involved in the spy case nor is there any suspicious man at Chongwadae.

"We will not tolerate it if the UPP continues to slander Chongwadae on every opportunity with false charges," the spokesman said.

DLP To Withdraw Lawsuits Against Other Parties

SK2112064992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0601 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—The Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] is likely to withdraw all of the lawsuits it filed against other parties during the presidential election campaign to in an initiative at inter-party reconciliation, a ranking DLP official said Monday.

"We should accept what is worth accepting because now is the time for all people to unite and exert their best in building a new Korea," DLP Secretary-general Kim Yong-ku said.

The bugging of a meeting of top Pusan officials should be investigated, however, to protect people's privacy and to prevent a recurrence, he said.

The DLP had not discussed whether to accept the resignation of former DLP Co-chairman Pak Tae-chun from the party, he said.

As Pak had resigned from the National Assembly, the DLP would have to consider it, he said, indicating that the DLP would soon approve Pak's resignation from the party.

NSP Agent 'Involved' in Illegal Tape Recording

SK2112115192 Seoul YONHAP in English 1137 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 21 (YONHAP)—The Seoul District Prosecutors Office, investigating the eavesdropping of a secret meeting of senior Pusan officials a week before the Friday presidential election, found out Monday that an official of the Agency for National Security Planning (NSP) was involved in the illegal tape recording.

A prosecution source said that the prosecutors office learned that the NSP official, bought over at a large amount of money by a man of the United People's Party [UPP] Pusan campaign headquarters, gave him the information about the time and place of the controversial meeting of key Pusan officials.

The NSP official was identified only as a Kim assigned to the NSP's Pusan branch and the man of the UPP's Pusan campaign headquarters involved as Mun Chong-yol, formerly a homeland reserve force company commander of the Hyundai heavy industries co.

The NSP official is to be turned over to the Seoul Prosecution Tuesday for questioning.

The source said Mun Chong-yol oversaw the eavesdropping while another Hyundai official, Choe Chong-yong, an executive of Hyundai Maritime Development Co., supervised the picture-taking of the officials leaving a Pusan restaurant after the meeting.

"There is a report that Mun met a Rep. Chong of the UPP through a senior Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. official at a Pusan hotel on the night of the eavesdropping and demanded 10 billion won in return for the recorded tapes," the source said.

The recorder used in the eavesdropping was an American-made wireless high-frequency gear able to eavesdrop at a long range, and the recorder was discarded after the use, he said.

Whether to punish those involved in the eavesdropping will be decided on once the whole picture is determined about the illegal tape recording, the source said.

UPP Allegedly Paid for Tape of Pusan Meeting

SK2212035292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0331 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—The prosecution said Tuesday that the United People's Party may have promised to pay more than 10 billion won for a tape of senior Pusan city officials discussing ways to help elect Kim Yong-sam.

The Seoul district prosecutor's office said the charges were made in a statement by Mun Chong-yol, a UPP official and one of the men who arranged and took part in the bugging operation.

The prosecution summoned Mun and six other men Sunday night and Monday and questioned them about the bugging of the meeting, called by Kim Ki-chun, a former justice minister, and attended by the mayor, the police chief, regional chief of the Agency for National Security Planning and other city officials at a Pusan restaurant on Dec. 11.

Mun told interrogators that they recorded the meeting and met with Rep. Chong Mong-chun of the UPP on the evening of Dec. 11 at the Lotte Hotel in Seoul, and he asked for 4 billion won for himself and 3 billion won each for Kim Nam-sok, an official at the NSP Pusan regional office, and An Chong-yun, who actually recorded the meeting, the prosecution said.

According to Mun, the prosecution said, Rep. Chong "nodded his assent" but didn't say anything.

Chong has admitted receiving the tape at the Lotte hotel on Dec. 11, but denies that he was asked to pay 10 billion won for it.

Talking to reporters at UPP headquarters, Chong said Tuesday that there was no mention of money when he was given the tape. He said he had been told by An Chong-sung, vice president of Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., to pick up the tape. Chong also denied that he was involved in the bugging.

The prosecution said that Hyundai's An Chong-sung was in charge of the bugging operation and the authorities were trying to locate him. An left the country on Dec. 19.

The prosecution was also trying to find the NSP official, Kim Nam-sok, who allegedly tipped Mun off about the planned secret meeting. Mun also told the prosecution they received 12 million won from An for undertaking the bugging operation.

With the presidential election less than a week away, the UPP held a press conference Dec. 14 and "exposed" the secret meeting by making the tape public as evidence of government involvement in election campaigns on behalf of Kim Yong-sam.

The authorities are separately investigating the officials who attended the secret meeting on suspicion that they violated the election law.

The main opposition Democratic Party issued a statement accusing the authorities of focusing their investigation on the buggers rather than the bugged. The ones who were violating the law were the participants in the meeting, not the ones who tried to catch them red handed, it said.

Political Parties Disagree on Bugging Incident

SK2212085192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0751 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 22 (YONHAP)—A political storm was brewing Tuesday between the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and opposition parties over bugging of a meeting of Pusan city government officials trying to campaign for Kim Yong-sam.

The DLP claimed that the meeting, called by Kim Ki-chun, a former justice minister, and attended by the mayor of Pusan and other officials, was a private get together and the privacy of the participants should be protected. Thus, it said, those who bugged the meeting should be punished for invasion of privacy.

The opposition parties, on the other hand, insist that the people who attended the meeting were violating the presidential election law when they discussed ways to help campaign for the election of the DLP presidential candidate.

Why, a statement by the main opposition Democratic Party asked, should the buggers be punished for catching law breakers with firm evidence—a tape recording of their meeting?

The controversy arose after the prosecution questioned six men who bugged the Dec. 11 meeting in a restaurant after receiving a tip from an official of the Agency for National Security Planning.

The prosecution said one of the men had confessed that after recording the meeting, they handed the tape to the United People's Party [UPP] for a public expose and demanded 10 billion won from the UPP's Rep. Chong Mong-chun.

With the presidential election less than a week to go, the UPP dropped what it hoped was a bombshell, exposing the government's involvement in campaigns on behalf of Kim Yong-sam, backing up its allegation with the tape.

Kim Yong-ku, secretary general of the DLP, said that President-elect Kim Yong-sam was prepared to condone some campaign misdemeanors for the sake of national unity and reconciliation.

"But this incident should be thoroughly investigated if only to protect the people from invasion of privacy and to prevent the recurrence of such unlawful bugging," Kim said.

Pak Hui-tae, spokesman of the DLP, said many people were suffering from fear of bugging and unless the authorities showed their determination to nip the problem in the bud, there would be a proliferation of bugging by individuals and companies.

The DLP said it was considering proposing legislation at the National Assembly aimed at prevent bugging in order to protect the privacy of ordinary citizens.

But the Democratic Party continued to focus the spotlight on the secret meeting itself, saying that it was undoubtedly illegal for government officials to hold a meeting to work out measures to help elect one particular candidate.

It also was an act that challenges the morality of the next administration since those officials ignored their responsibility to erase regionalism and to remain neutral during the campaigns.

Meanwhile, Rep. Chong Mong-chun acknowledged the receipt of the tape from An Chung-sung, vice president of Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., who, according to the prosecution, directed the entire bugging operation. Chong Mong-chun, however, denied that he had agreed to pay 10 billion won to the buggers.

Nevertheless, the prosecution said it wants to question Rep. Chong, sixth son of Chong Chu-yong, founder of the UPP and of the Hyundai business group.

The UPP made no official statement on the matter, but senior party officials were said to be concerned with the latest turn since the government was also investigating abuses by the UPP of the Hyundai group's corporate funds.

Burma

Thai Bank Officials Hold Talks with Deputy PM

BK2212142892 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Responsible officials and delegations from the Thai Central Bank and the Khrung Thai Bank called on Vice Admiral Maung Maung Khin, member of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, chairman of Foreign Investment Commission, and deputy prime minister, at the Foreign Investment Commission office in Yangon [Rangoon] at 1100 today.

Present at the meeting were Brigadier General Abel, minister for planning and finance, and responsible personnel from the ministry of planning and finance.

At the meeting, cordial and frank talks were held on bilateral economic cooperation and banking development matters.

Editorial Urges Support of National Convention

BK2312044192 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0140 GMT 23 Dec 92

[From the "Press Review" program: KYEMON editorial entitled "For Successfully Holding the National Convention"]

[Text] The National Convention which everybody has been waiting for will be convened on 9 January 1993. As the date approaches, the state is making utmost efforts to ensure the success of the convention. Preparations are being made on all fronts for the convention, which will determine the destiny of the entire nation.

This type of national convention has never been held in the history of Myanmar [Burma]; it will be a very significant and unique event. The national people are waiting in anticipation for the convention, which is being heralded throughout the country.

The wishes of the national people are soon to be fulfilled. However, there are some people who do not want to see the National Convention held and who want to undermine it. These resentful elements are power-mad politicians who want to depend on foreign powers like one pining for an aunt over one's own mother, and self-aggrandizing businessmen who sell the country and disregard the interests of the nation.

These persons are colluding and scheming with overt and underground destructive elements with the objective of undermining the National Convention. Therefore, the people must be aware of the danger of these elements. In connection with this, Major General Tin U, secretary-2 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, spoke at a meeting with state-level departmental authorities on 20 December in Pa-an. He said obstruction of the National Convention, which will lay down basic principles for the Constitution, must be removed courageously, together with the strength of the people.

Convening the National Convention is a responsibility of the entire people. Therefore, during a meeting with members of regiments and military units under the Yangon [Rangoon] Military Command and chairmen of township law and order restoration councils on 21 December, Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, commander of the Yangon Military Command, said that the National Convention shall be held in accordance with the set national objectives and called on all citizens, who are responsible for successfully holding the convention, to give their contributions.

Every person is responsible for successfully holding the National Convention, and every person is responsbile for removing those who obstruct it. All national people are urged to discharge these two responsibilities in unity.

360 People Repatriated From Bangladesh 22 Dec

BK2312084292 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] In accordance with the agreement reached between the leaders of the two countries on the repatriation of those who illegally left Myanmar [Burma] for Bangladesh, a delegation led by Mr. Faisal Rahman Farooq and Dr. (Hyman Q. Anwar), camp officials, transferred 360 returnees—191 males and 169 females—from 96 households to our Kayinchaung Reception Center at 1005 yesterday. The returnees were brought in by eight boats. The Bangladesh delegation returned to their country at 1155.

It is learned that a total of 4,322 persons who left the country illegally—2,147 males and 2,175 females—from 982 households have returned since the repatriation began on 22 September 1992.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Sultans Discuss Plans To Amend Constitution

BK2112153992 Singapore Singapore Broadcasting Corporation in English 1400 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The sultans of Malaysia held an informal meeting in Kuala Lumpur to discuss the government's move to amend the federal Constitution. The amendment is designed to remove the rulers' immunity from prosecution. The sultan of Kelantan, who is in Kedah, did not attend the meeting. The meeting took place ahead of an official meeting of the Conference of Rulers next month. Parliament is to sit next month to debate and vote on the government's proposal to amend the Constitution.

Johor Assemblymen Approve Motion

BK2212074492 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] The Johor state legislative assembly has approved the motion supporting the federal government move to amend the Malaysian constitution to remove the legal immunity of the rulers. Thirty-five state assemblymen supported the motion while one was opposed to it.

Earlier, the speaker of the [words indistinct] sitting which was debating the state budget to enable the special motion to be tabled by Chief Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Chief Ministers Agree

BK2212154692 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] All the menteri besar [chief minister] including Haji Nik Aziz Nik Mat of Kelantan today agreed to the proposed constitutional amendment to remove the rulers' immunity from prosecution. A special assistant to the prime minister, Datuk Jalaluddin Bahadin, said the menteri besar discussed the proposed amendment with Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir and Deputy Prime Minister Encik [Mr.] Ghafar Baba at the prime minister's office in Kuala Lumpur. Finance Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim, Law Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar, and Attorney General Encik Abu Talib Othman also attended the meeting which lasted about three hours.

Minister Promises To Monitor Effects of NAFTA

BK2212101092 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 19 Dec 92 p 14

[Text] Malaysia will keep tabs on the development in the trade industry in the United States, Mexico, and Canada to check on any trade protectionism or restriction in the NAFTA [North American Free Trade Agreement] pact.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said her ministry is presently gathering feedback from trade commissioners in the three nations on the effects of the NAFTA on trade with Malaysia.

"Mexico is an ideal base for the exports of Malaysian goods in the North American market.

"Should they (the authorities in NAFTA countries) impose any rules on the origin of the products, for example, our exporters will inevitably face difficulties in getting the products into the market," she said when asked to comment on the signing of NAFTA.

The United States, Canada, and Mexico signed the pact on Thursday. The agreement is scheduled to be implemented in 1994.

Speaking to reporters after opening Salon La Prairie in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Rafidah said Malaysia will complain should there be any direct or indirect trade barriers in NAFTA markets.

ASEAN economic ministers have agreed during the meeting in Manila in October to collate information from all member countries on NAFTA. Rafidah said Nafta will definitely benefit Mexico.

Parliament Passes 1993 Supply Bill 17 Dec

BK1712140092 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 17 Dec 92

[Text] The Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives] has passed the Supply Bill 1993 amounting to 44.14 billion ringgit after a 16-day debate. Finance Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim tabled the bill on October 30th.

Official Says Manufactured Goods Export Increased

BK2312053392 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0305 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Dec 23 (OANA/BERNAMA)—Malaysia's export of manufactured goods is on the increase and in the first six months of this year alone it accounted for 64 per cent of total exports valued at RM47.3 billion [Malaysian ringgit] (US$18.9 billion), the upper house of parliament was told Tuesday.

International Trade and Industry Ministry Parliamentary Secretary S.S. Subramaniam said last year the country's exports totalled RM94.6 billion (US$37.84 billion) of which 68.4 percent were manufactured goods.

"Malaysia is exporting its goods to more than 120 countries and the composition of the exports reflects Malaysia's position as an exporter of manufactured goods," he said.

Subramaniam said the country's 31 trade offices overseas were playing an important role in promoting Malaysian goods overseas and providing feedback on market situation.

He said it was hoped that the Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE), scheduled to begin operations early next year, would be able to contribute positively towards the development of the country's external trade, especially manufactured goods.

MATRADE would work closely with the country's trade offices overseas in helping exporters find new markets.

He added that MATRADE would identify potential goods for export and strengthen the existing mechanism in the export support system to enable Malaysian products to compete in overseas markets.

Cambodia

Ministers Order Action Against Land Grabbing

BK2212105392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Dec 92

[14 December instructional circular of the Council of Ministers presenting measures against public land-grabbing activities—read by announcer]

[Text] In the spirit of the meeting held on 18 November 1992 at the interior minister's office with the head of the civilian administration of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], the Council of Ministers wishes to make the following instructions to the people's committees of all provinces and cities:

In light of the current situation in which our State of Cambodia [SOC] Government is carefully implementing the Paris agreement in order to bring national reconciliation, peace, and stability to the Cambodian people, we see that many negative phenomena have taken place in our national community, both in the urban areas and in the provinces throughout the country, such as thievery, armed robberies, criminal offenses, and especially cases in which some felons have illegally planted stakes on or erected buildings in public lands with the intention of seizing and turning them into their own property. These negative phenomena have brought chaos to our national community and caused worries and fears to our people, prompting them to lose confidence and trust in the legitimate leadership of our SOC Government. Moreover, they show that our local authorities have become weakened and incapable of administering.

The Council of Ministers has learned from reliable sources that these felons who have grabbed public lands are not homeless or landless people. Most of them rightfully own houses. However, they have committed these offenses for profit. Once they manage to occupy a plot of land, they sell it off and then restart the same process in another place. We have also observed that such dirty maneuvers appear to be well organized and are carried out under the command and leadership of instigators because the movement takes place in a similar pattern almost everywhere and the modus operandi does not vary much. Moreover, we can estimate that these public land-grabbing activities are also politically oriented.

In order to fight this crime, the Council of Ministers orders the provincial and municipal people's committees to first of all send popular, well-liked, and widely respected officials or personalities to explain to the offenders all the consequences that may arise from their illegal activities and tell them that such acts constitute a crime that can bring serious harm to our nation and people, especially at the current stage where the country's political situation is extremely complex. After explaining and advising them once or twice, if they remain stubborn and refuse to listen to and comply with our instructions, the provincial and municipal people's committees must enact the existing law and the court decisions or sentences, if any. Should they keep spurning the law, we must deem it intolerable to remain mute and let them continue to misbehave in that manner.

Therefore, if necessary, the provincial and municipal people's committees may resort to the use of governmental forces, including police and armed forces, either to compel the offenders into dismantling the stakes that they have illegally planted or the buildings they have illegally erected on public lands, or to dismantle these structures themselves. However, before exercising the use of force as described above, the provincial and municipal people's committees must give a 30-day prior notice to the lawbreakers so they will be prewarned and carry out the dismantling task themselves. At the same time, the people's committees must also inform UNTAC so it can directly observe the action and cooperate with us.

The Council of Ministers expect that the chairmen of the provincial and municipal people's committees will pay close attention to effectively implementing this instructional circular and thereby avoid all untoward eventualities.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 14 December 1992
[Signed] Vice Chairman Sar Kheng, for the Council of Ministers

KR 'Attacks' in Battambang 5-15 Dec Reported

BK2212105192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] The military office in Battambang Province has reported that between 5 and 15 December, there were 11 violations by the Khmer Rouge, including one foray to rob foodstuffs, eight attacks with support artillery fire, and two attacks by infantry troops.

At 1300 on 5 December, 18 Pol Pot soldiers from Division 36 attacked Kaoh Cha and Say communes west of Moung Russei District. Many B-40 rockets were fired causing poll registration UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] staff to flee to Moung District; other UNTAC personnel fled to Kakaoh Commune leaving behind some Cambodian personnel.

At 1800 on the same day, 15 Pol Pot soldiers from this Division 36 robbed people's property in Char Muoy and Neak Kru communes; another 30 soldiers from this same division infiltrated into (Kraol Romeas) in sector 03/44 and robbed people of 50 kilograms of rice, a sack of salt, 100 chickens, and two oxcarts.

In Banan District, Khmer Rouge Division 705 launched attacks by firing 53 DK-82 shells on our sectors; no damage resulted, however. In Bavel District, Khmer Rouge Division 320 fired three DK-82 shells from sector 52/65 into sector 56.65, Tahen, and sector 59/65.8

causing no damage. Another 100 shells were fired to put pressure on Sangke Vea, Kompong Phneou, and Stoeng Dach areas, Peam, Kompong Krasang, and Tumnup Toek villages, district positions, Division 6's positions, and UNTAC positions in the area. Five villagers were wounded, three division soldiers killed, and eight others wounded.

As measures to counter these violations, our forces used the right to self-defense to ensure security for the people and defend social and national gains. We killed eight assailants and wounded eight others. We also seized eight assorted weapons and a quantity of other war materiel. Furthermore, our state authority received two Khmer Rouge soldiers who surrendered with two AK's, 30 rounds of ammunition, two cartridges, and a boat. One surrendered in Ratanamondol District and another in Ek Phnum District.

Communique on Party Delegation Visiting Sihanouk

BK1812145992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 18 Dec 92

["Communique of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee"; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Since His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, father of the Cambodian nation, head of state, chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council, and father of Cambodian national unification, has fallen ill and is taking medical treatment in Beijing, a high-ranking delegation of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and State of Cambodia [SOC] led by His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim and composed of H.E. Kong Sam-ol, Prince Norodom Chakkrapong and his wife, and Their Excellencies Sin Song and Ke Kimyan, paid a call on the prince and his wife from 15 to 17 December 1992.

While they were staying at the royal residence, H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and his delegation were given an audience by HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk during which the prince expressed happiness over the CPP and SOC's concern about his health. At present, his health has much improved and his eyesight is recovering, but he has to receive more medical checkups and treatment. For this reason, he still cannot return to meet all the Buddhist monks and people.

As an assurance of his kindness to and love for the CPP and SOC, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk has conferred the (Mohasereivoat Reacheanuset Monisarapoan) medals on H.E. Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP, National Assembly, and the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense; H.E. Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the CPP and chairman of the Council of State; H.E. Hun Sen, vice chairman of the CPP and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the SOC.

The prince head of state has also decided to confer the same medals on H.E. Say Phuthang, member of the CPP Central Committee [CC]'s Standing Committee and chairman of the Central Committee's Control Commission; H.E. Sar Kheng, member of the CC Standing Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and interior minister; H.E. Bou Thang, member of the CC Standing Committee; H.E. Chea Soth, member of the CC Standing Comittee and chairman of the CPP's Finance Committee; H.E. Say Chhum, member of the CC Standing Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; H.E. Tie Banh, member of the CC Standing Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and defense minister; Mrs. Men Sam-an, member of the CC Standing Committee and chairman of Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions; H.E. Mat Ly, member of the CC Standing Committee and vice chairman of the Control Commission and National Assembly; H.E. Ney Pena, member of the CC Standing Committee and vice chairman of the Control Commission; H.E. Nguon Nhel, member of the CC Standing Committee and agriculture minister; H.E. Sin Song, member of the CC Standing Committee and national security minister; H.E. Sim Ka, member of the CC Standing Committee and chairman of the Phnom Penh Municipal Party Committee; H.E. Pol Saroeun, member of the CC Standing Committee and deputy defense minister; Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, member of the CC Standing Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; H.E. Ke Kimyan, member of the CC Standing Committee and first deputy defense minister; H.E. Kong Sam-ol, member of the CC Standing Committee and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; H.E. Hor Namhong, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] and foreign minister; H.E. Dit Munti, member of the SNC and information minister; H.E. Im Chhunlim, member of the SNC and education minister; and H.E. Sin Sen, member of the SNC and deputy national security minister.

During the audience as well as when the delegation bade farewell to him, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk extended his best regards to all monks and compatriots.

The high-ranking delegation returned home safely at 1030 on the morning of 18 December 1992.

Hun Sen Issues Circular on Security 17 Dec

BK2012103792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 19 Dec 92

["Circular 07 of the Council of Ministers"; dated 17 December—read by announcer]

[Text] Although numerous obstacles both major and petty still exist after one year of the peace accord's implementation, the general situation in Cambodia has developed normally, thereby allowing many aspects of the implementation process to make headway. Especially in the social aspect, many hundreds of thousands of refugees have been rebuilding their lives in the national community, a great number of overseas Cambodians have come to the country to visit their families; the process of registering voters for elections is nearing completion; the living conditions of the people in the national society have been improving; and so on. However, along with the aforementioned positive points, a great many complicated issues have surfaced as well.

Concerning the issue of security and social order, we have taken note of an escalating rate of anarchic activities, banditry, [words indistinct], mainly in cities and townships. Some phenomena that never existed before have also arisen. Abetting and instigating maneuvers have been employed by various political parties to provoke turmoil for the purpose of reaping political gain and putting the blame on the State of Cambodia [SOC] side, the host party. Moreover, a number of irresponsible newsmen have also taken advantage of the opportunity to amass profits through poisoning public opinion.

In sum, in the latest situation it appears that ill intentions have surfaced, creating a current of accusation concerning the issue of a neutral political environment, which is against the SOC side. This is certainly unfair given the efforts and sacrifices made by our people and officials, especially by the police and armed forces, which have so far done everything to prevent military violations on the frontline and have circumvented diverse complicated problems in the rearguard, with the aim of maintaining the current situation, which is necessary for ensuring the processing of other work.

Reassessing the past concrete situation, we are able however to draw the following conclusions:

The nonimplementation of the accord and the daily violation of the accord are the root causes of the problem that has been continuing the people's sufferings without respite. The Khmer Rouge have the advantage of fomenting turmoil so as to destroy the accord and the SOC's reputation. They have no interest in letting the elections proceed peacefully since the election result will turn them into unlawful rebels in the wake of the election of a legitimate government. That being the case, the Khmer Rouge will soon intensify military activities and stir up disturbances: Various political parties will become the target of their attacks, but the blame of the attacks will be placed by them on the SOC side, the incumbent administration.

Banditry, assassination, and violence are only common law offenses and also individual or general conflicts in society. Other activities ensuing from internal conflicts in various political parties—namely, the conflicts over the problems of ranks, positions, functions, and interests—and from deception: Previously, a number of people who were under threat requested protection from our administration. And some other politically motivated activities have been carried out daily to victimize our cadres and party members as well as ordinary people who support our party, and so on.

Therefore, concerning law and order in the future, the situation will continue to evolve in a complicated manner. Not all the factions, political parties, or milieus have the intention of implementing the accord or conducting political struggle sincerely by placing the people's interest above all. Conspicuously, their objective is to do everything, regardless of whether it is bad or good for the people and society, in order to amass political gain for their faction or party. And in particular, the Khmer Rouge faction will certainly commit all manner of crimes to destroy the accord.

In addition to previous directives, the SOC's Council of Ministers is issuing the circular to advise the people's committees in every province and city, authorities at all levels, and institutions to efficiently undertake the following important tasks:

1. Continue to educate officials and armed forces at all levels and our people to understand our Cambodian People's Party's [CPP] and SOC's genuine, goodwill, and their sincere stance on the execution of the Paris accord for the sake of Cambodia's peace and national reunification. Moreover, it is imperative to make the general public clearly see that every base action, such as oppression, intimidation, and armed activities against offices or officials of various political parties—including the CPP—constitutes an instigation aimed at fomenting turmoil and creating suspicion and distrust. This is to disrupt the solidarity that the CPP and SOC have vigorously struggled to achieve.

In any case, the CPP and SOC pledge to continue full cooperation with UNTAC and other political parties in order to unmask the criminals who stay in the background. Along with this, the SOC side will closely collaborate with UNTAC and international news networks on publicizing accurate news in a timely manner so as to avoid polluting the neutral political environment, which constitutes an outstanding problem at present.

2. In addition to preventing the Khmer Rouge's violations, our competent authorities at all levels should increase awareness and mastery and closely cooperate with UNTAC in stamping out armed robbery, terrorism, and disturbances with a view to successfully maintaining law, order, and social stability; ensuring the people's peaceful livelihood; and creating favorable conditions for diverse political parties to freely and lawfully carry our their activities.

Concerning political parties that have already been allowed to carry out their legal activities in the SOC-controlled regions, it is necessary for us to cooperate with UNTAC and have discussions with them and the parties concerned so as to establish concrete measures to maintain security for their agents and offices.

3. All levels and sectors should follow up any changes in the situation concerning security and public order in their respective localities. Whenever an incident occurs, they should launch an investigation to clearly find out

the source behind the incident and determine whether it concerns political terrorism, armed robbery, assassination, individual conflict, or common social disputes, and so on; this is aimed at taking necessary measures to deal with matters fairly. Moreover, a relevant report should be presented to higher authorities and UNTAC should also be informed on a timely basis, and time-consuming action and negligence that would cause malicious rumor and groundless accusation should be avoided.

After receiving the circular, all the people's committees in provinces and cities, institutions, and competent authorities at all levels should enforce it effectively.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 17 December 1992.
[Signed] For the Council of Ministers, Chairman Hun Sen.

KR Reportedly Kill Three Vietnamese 17 Dec

BK2312130692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Latest news]

[Text] According to a Security Ministry report, on 17 December in Thalabarivat district, Stung Treng Province, the Khmer Rouge snuck in and kidnapped three ethnic Vietnamese fishermen living in Neak Buon ward of the provincial seat as the three were fishing at a point called Son Tien in O Svay commune, Thalabarivat District. On the following day the bodies of the three fishermen, tied together, were spotted floating in the river.

Moreover, according to a Takeo provincial police report, at 2000 on 16 December in Tram Kak district, Takeo Province, seven mysterious armed persons dressed in military uniforms robbed the house of Mom Vun, a resident of Ta Chhmam village, Samraong commune, and forced his elder brother to follow them westward. The competent authorities are conducting an inquiry into this incident.

In Svay Rieng Province, according to a local police report, at 1430 on 19 December, a man named Haom Rina, deputy head of the Democracy Party office, together with five colleagues drove a Toyota Corolla car to the market place where they caused pandemonium by shooting a trader named Prak Sari. Following the incident, our competent authorities cooperated with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to investigate. We made an arrest and confiscated a pistol. The UNTAC police then took the offender and the weapon to their own office, promising to return them to our police later.

In Sihanoukville, according to a municipal police report, at 1030 on 18 December, a bomb exploded at the house of Chea Sakhan, male resident of Group 10, Center 2, Ward 4, Mittapheap ward. It is still unknown who was behind the explosion which caused no injuries.

According to a Security Ministry report, at 0700 on 21 December, 12 Polpotists of Regiment 93, Division 920, kidnapped three border patrol police officers in Khnhong village, Memot District, Kompong Cham Province, as they were riding to their border checkpoint. The Khmer Rouge killed one of the police officers near Ta Kev wood, Chan Mul village, and seized two motorcycles. The two other policemen managed to escape.

Former Pol Pot Soldier Reportedly Assassinated

BK2112124092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 21 Dec 92

["Latest news"]

[Text] On 17 December 1992 at 2100 at Koul village, Tuol Prich commune, Phnum Penh District, Kandal Province, there was a murder committed by unknown persons firing an AK rifle on Phang Chea, a male aged 42. He was a former Pol Pot soldier, a battalion member of Division 18 in charge of the Phnum Penh District battlefield in 1983-84. He surrendered in July 1984. After he left the Khmer Rouge army, he was reunited with his family and led a peaceful life like other people.

After the murder, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] representatives in Phnum Penh District, along with the Tuol Prich police and administrative team, examined the victim who had three bullet wounds.

The National Security Ministry expressed utmost regret at the crime which took place in the area administered by the State of Cambodia. The ministry denounces all terrorist activities which are aimed at poisoning the neutral political atmosphere in Cambodia. The National Security Ministry will cooperate with UNTAC to vigorously investigate, find the culprits, and send them to stand trial and be sentenced in accordance with the law in force.

NADK Spokesman Categorizes DK Control Zones

BK2312033492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 22 Dec 92

[22 December "Statement of the Spokesman of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea;" place not given; read by announcer]

[Text] 1. The recent incidents in mid-December 1992 of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] staff encroaching into the Democratic Kampuchea [DK] regions violate the Paris accord and the working procedure of the Mixed Military Working Group. These actions are neither fortuitous nor unintentional. They are premeditated with the darkest political design of instigating trouble and (?creating confusion) so as to place the blame on the DK.

2. As a matter of fact, Mr. Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], and Mr. Son Sen, vice chairman of the PDK and member of the SNC, on 20 December 1992 in the name of the PDK and the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK] issued a statement accounting for the incidents to the national and international audience. They also sent copies of the statement to the secretary general of the United Nations; Mr. Akashi, head of UNTAC; General Sanderson, commander of the UNTAC forces; the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and all the diplomats accredited to the SNC in Phnom Penh.

3. Now the NADK wishes to formally and solemnly inform the national and international audience about the zoning of PDK regions. The PDK and NADK have three types of zones where different security measures are adopted:

Zone 1: The region is a liberated and fairly organized zone. It has moderate security for guests entering the region, and the PDK is able to provide 100 percent security.

Zone 2: The region is a semi-liberated area where only moderate or 50 percent security can be given. Though mostly occupied and controlled by DK, the region is occasionally infiltrated by the Vietnamese and puppets' main forces or commando units carrying out lightning harassments. In this semi-liberated zone, especially for guests who are to be welcomed, DK is equally able to provide 100 percent security. However, DK will not be responsible for providing or maintaining security for outsiders who enter this zone without DK's knowledge.

Zone 3: This is a zone of guerrilla activity, where DK's regular and guerrilla forces are permanently fighting to defend themselves. The forces are on the move and do not have established areas yet. There are only liberated or semi-liberated villages here that the enemy would retake in a few days, with us liberating them again later and vice versa. In this combat region, the NADK can only provide 50 percent security to DK guests. However, if outsiders enter this contentious and active guerrilla region without informing the NADK or when DK permission has been denied, the NADK will not ensure security for them.

These are the zones in the DK regions that the NADK wishes to explain to the national and international audience. This is aimed at preventing Vietnamese aggressors, the Vietnamese puppets, or those with bad intention from provoking all sorts of trouble and blaming the DK.

The NADK clarification is aimed at promoting the correct implementation of the Paris accord and circumventing the Vietnamese aggressors, the Vietnamese puppets, and the group of bad elements from violating the accord at will. This move, on the contrary, is a contribution to the correct implementation of the Paris accord. The NADK has repeatedly clarified that it has been more than a year since UNTAC heads, the Vietnamese aggressors, and the Vietnamese puppets have affected the Paris accord. Old and new Vietnamese aggressor forces are everywhere in Cambodia constantly bullying and killing the people, resistance forces, and various political parties and so on. In this situation, the NADK is duty-bound and right to defend itself against the destruction of the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets.

IV. Therefore, those wanting to enter DK's areas are invited to inform the PDK representative in Phnom Penh so that the PDK and NADK can make the appropriate arrangements in accordance with realites.

[Dated] 22 December 1992.
[Signed] The Spokesman of the NADK.

UNTAC Criticized; KR Offensive Alleged

BK2212152192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] On the morning of 22 December, Uch Kim-an, deputy minister of the Council of Ministers office and spokesman of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government; and General Pan Thai, adviser to the SOC Prime Minister, held a weekly news conference with the participation of local and foreign reporters and representatives of various embassies and international organizations accredited to Cambodia.

Uch Kim-an said the Khmer Rouge [KR] have launched serious attacks on Bavel District forcing our people to flee their houses; the people are deprived of shelters and face food shortages. The SOC state authority and our Cambodian Red Cross have hastily provided emergency material assistance to alleviate this hardship. No party has paid any attention to the hardship. Uch Kim-an stressed that a number of the victims have just returned from (?camps). The Khmer Rouge have not paid any attention to the suffering and hardship of the people.

The Khmer Rouge attack against Bavel District is a gross violation against the area controlled by the SOC. It shows base contempt for our people's hardship in that area. Some of the people have just been repatriated and started to build a new life.

To a question on measures taken by UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], Uch Kim-an said UNTAC has only one measure, namely withdrawing. UNTAC has not even dared to scold the Khmer Rouge. On the contrary, UNTAC has put the blame on the SOC. Can we remain idle forever and let the Khmer Rouge open fire causing victims among innocent people? We have to exercise our right of self-defense. We have been put in the same basket with the Khmer Rouge.

Uch Kim-an asked this question: Has UNTAC ever fired on the Khmer Rouge to justify the latter's opening fire on UNTAC? Has UNTAC arrested Khmer Rouge soldiers to justify the Khmer Rouge's arrest of UNTAC staff. Yet the Khmer Rouge have many times opened fire on us before we started exercising the right to self-defense. However, we should now understand that there seems to be a campaign attempting to slander our SOC's prestige.

Concerning the Khmer Rouge's recent activities against the UN mission, Uch Kim-an called them Khmer Rouge terrorist activities against UNTAC forces. We do not want to see these base activities because we are one of the parties signing the peace agreement. The main issue now is whether the UN Security Council and the international community are willing to allow the Khmer Rouge to carry on such activities against UNTAC. Uch Kim-an expressed his view that he does not believe that the international community, the United Nations, and UNTAC are willing to let the Khmer Rouge behave like this.

Uch Kim-an further said that UNTAC's first task in Cambodia is to supervise the cease-fire and cantonment of each party's troops. At the troop cantonment sites, UNTAC should move its forces to ensure that there are no violations by one party against another. However, UNTAC has not done this. When the Khmer Rouge committed violations, UNTAC retreated instead. To solve this problem, UNTAC should use military maps presented at the signing of the agreement in Paris to clearly reexamine the positions of each party's troops.

Concerning the use of the SNC [Supreme National Council] flag, SOC Government spokesman Uch Kim-an said that in accordance with the Paris agreement between UNTAC and the SNC, only the samdech head of state, who is the SNC chairman, has the right to use, during his missions around the country, the SNC flag which represents Cambodia's sovereignty and national union. At the samdech's residence, the SNC flag can be flown. Other SNC members can fly the SNC flag in their houses; however, these members have no right to use the SNC flag on their vehicles. As for the offices of various political parties, they cannot use the SNC flag; however, they can use their party's emblem.

We have proposed that order be restored in the use of the SNC flag. Uch Kim-an further said that some people have (?issued) vehicle number plates themselves. This is anarchy causing a loss of social order.

Also on this occasion General Pan Thai informed reporters about the increasingly serious military situation in Bavel district, Battambang Province. The general stressed that the Khmer Rouge have moved forces and long made preparations in their attempt to open fire, attack, and control Bavel district, which has an advantageous geographic position from which the Khmer Rouge can fire artillery shells and attack Battambang Province. These brutal activities have forced 1,807 families of our innocent people, comprising 13,215 persons, to abandon their homes.

It is worth noting that in a document given out to reporters at the news conference, concrete figures on Khmer Rouge violations against the SOC were given. The Khmer Rouge have 285 times violated the positions of the Cambodian People's Army [CPA]; fired artillery shells 420 times; carried out 11 ambushes; and cut 12 bridges. Some (?193) CPA soldiers have been killed and 154 others wounded; 10 policemen have been killed and another one wounded; 169 civilians have been killed and 294 others wounded; and 192 people's houses, two schools, and four district offices have been burned down by the Khmer Rouge. These violations are the most serious danger and should be punished.

Ex-Sihanoukists Join Government as Advisors

BK2212053592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 22 Dec 92

["Communique of the State of Cambodia's Council of Ministers"—read by announcer]

[Text] Having been appointed a UN consultant accredited to the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia [SOC] for some time, and having assessed the real situation in Cambodia, Keat Chhon, formerly a major personality in the era of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, has decided to join and serve the SOC Government in order to achieve his lofty ideal, that is to contribute to defending and building the country and nation toward peace, security, national reconciliation, and social progress.

Therefore, in accordance with Decree No. 110 dated 19 December 1992 of the SOC Council of State, Keat Chhon has been appointed adviser to the SOC Government. On top of this, in accordance with Decision No. 109 of the Council of Ministers dated 14 December 1992, Keat Chhon has further been appointed to the post of chairman of the national committee for investment.

At the same time, Thao Peng Lean, another former personality with experience in many sectors in the era of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, has also volunteered to serve in the SOC Government to achieve the same lofty ideals. Therefore, in accordance with Decree No. 110 dated 19 December 1992 of the SOC Council of State, Thao Peng Lean has also been appointed to be another adviser of the SOC Government.

Reference: Appointment decree, Keat Chhon's biography and statement.

Hun Sen Receives Malaysian Army Chief 18 Dec

BK2012084192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 18 December at the office of the Council of Ministers, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received the Malaysian National Defense Ministry delegation led by General Abdul Rahman Abdu Hamid, commander-in-chief of the Malaysian armed forces.

On this occasion H.E. Hun Sen informed the guest about the results of the implementation of the Paris agreement which the State of Cambodia [SOC] Government has appropriately implemented in accordance with every phase of the peace agreement—particularly in regard to close cooperation with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], and including Malaysian troops. H.E. Hun Sen also talked about the serious consequences resulting from the Khmer Rouge side's serious violations of the peace agreement.

More recently, the Khmer Rouge attacked Bavel district in Battambang Province and brought ammunition to hide in the country with the aim of attacking the SOC troops in this dry season. H.E. Hun Sen also provided further explanation on the neutral political atmosphere in Cambodia which the Khmer Rouge are taking advantage of by organizing forces in the country to carry out activities to rob and massacre the people, destroy social and national achievements, and create insecurity in order to hinder the implementation of the peace agreement and the organization of the forthcoming elections.

Replying, General Abdul Rahman Abdul Hamid expressed great joy over the SOC development and the appropriate SOC activities in the search for peace for the Cambodian people, particularly the good implementation of the second phase of the agreement in close cooperation with UNTAC. The general said he himself, like the Malysian Government and people, would like to actively join the Cambodian people in promoting the implementation of the peace agreement and quickly move toward the elections.

Hun Sen Signs Aid Protocol on Sihanouk's Behalf

BK2212034492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] With the lofty permission of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, father of the Cambodian nation and chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], His Excellency Hun Sen, vice chairman of the Cambodian People's Party, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and member of the SNC, signed with (Edward Vatte), representative of the UN Development Program or UNDP, a protocol on UN development aid for Cambodia on the morning of 21 December at the office of the Council of Ministers.

The protocol includes UN aid programs for the development of Cambodia in three fields, namely agriculture, education, and culture.

The ceremony ended in a very joyous and cordial atmosphere.

UN Streamlines Passport Procurement Procedures

BK2212090692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0831 GMT 22 Dec 92

[By Sheri Prasso]

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Dec 22 (AFP)—Until just one week ago, obtaining a passport in Cambodia required a government evaluation of applicants' morality and political beliefs, approval from at least four departments and up to 400 dollars in bribes.

An extensive questionnaire for the files at the KGB-like interior ministry asked what role applicants played during Cambodia's last three revolutions, whether any of their family members died and, if so, how and what "activities" they had been engaged in.

When the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) learned of the procedure, it went straight to Prime Minister Hun Sen. After a six-month delay, UNTAC did away with the intrusive questions itself, as it is endowed by the Cambodian peace plan with direct control over foreign affairs and public security. What took weeks or even months before has been tremendously simplified and now takes a mere five days and five dollars.

"Not only was this a complex and time-consuming process, but there was room for corruption and intimidation," said Alf Reina, deputy of foreign affairs in UNTAC's civil administration.

"The effect may be seen as diminishing the role of the interior ministry, which is responsible for local authorities," he said. Passport allocation is now in the appropriate hands—the Foreign Ministry's.

UNTAC also abolished a special visa application form used to question overseas Cambodians about their political affiliations, Reina said.

Despite Cambodia's outward moves toward multi-party democracy following the end of the civil war last year, many of the old Soviet-style ways of governance remained in place. Not only were citizens' travel documents kept by authorities—given out only when they travelled and confiscated upon their return—but Cambodians also needed exit and entry visas for their own country.

To obtain the passport, Cambodians had to fill out a six-page form and provide certificates of approval from the heads of their village, sub-district, district and province.

Finally, the local communist People's Committee had to "further evaluate the citizen as to his involvement in revolution(s), as well as his living standards and his level of morality," according to the relevant form, which left eight blank lines for this evaluation.

At many steps along the way, the applicant was asked for a so-called "processing fee."

Several Cambodians told AFP they paid as much as 400 dollars to complete the passport process, and were pleased it had been simplified.

"I thought I would spend a lot of money to get my passport, but it's not true," said 18-year-old Sok Sary, who planned to visit his aunt in Germany this week for the first time. "I am excited to have it in my hand. This is the freedom I really want," he said.

Ouk Lay, 54, said he paid 400 dollars to help his younger brother obtain a passport last year.

"Because I wanted it to be fast, I gave money to different people at different places," he said, recalling that officials at his district headquarters asked what sort of "incentive" he could offer to get the papers cleared.

"I took them to a restaurant for dinner. The next day I got my brother's clearance. This process continued" at all levels, he said.

Sam Kosal, a private businessman, said he wanted a passport but had no idea how to obtain one and was unaware of the change in the law. "Some people told me, if you want to have a passport, you don't need to do anything. Just pay me 300 dollars," he said.

Reina said UNTAC now needed to help Cambodians learn their rights and to make sure the authorities do not abuse them. His department has created posters and circulars in Khmer about the passport application procedure.

"I saw the notice," said Do Chunly, a 22-year-old businesswoman. "Nobody can cheat me now.

Contract Signed on Goods at Sihanoukville Port

BK2312040092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Summary] "An agreement on the supply of services between the General Department of the Sihanoukville port and the Phal Peanich company" was concluded in the presence of "Mr. So Khun, member of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and minister of Communications, Transport, and Posts," at the Cambodiana Hotel in Phnom Penh on 21 December.

The agreement was signed by "Mr. So Kimchhun, director of the Sihanoukville port's General Department, and Mr. Ieng Sophal, director of the Phal Peanich company."

The main objective of the agreement is to improve and speed up the handling of goods at the port.

Indonesia

E. Timor Commander Comments on Xanana, Fretilin

BK2312100192 Jakarta TEMPO in Indonesian 5 Dec 92 p 29

["Excerpts" of interviews by TEMPO Weekly Magazine correspondents Rubai Kadir in Dili and Bambang Sujatmoko in Jakarta with Brigadier General Theo Syafie, East Timor military field operations commander; date not given]

[Text] [TEMPO] It was reported that the capture of [Gusmao] Xanana [leader of the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor, FRETILIN] was the job of the Special Red Beret Unit specially flown in from Jakarta.

[Theo] No, the Intelligence Task Force is a component of KOLAKOPS [Operational Execution Command] in East Timor. It is a part of the Red Beret Corp that is replaced periodically. It was the Intelligence Task Force that managed to capture Xanana after he had been stalked for two to three months by intelligence officers to detect his whereabouts in East Timor.

[TEMPO] Another source said the information about Xanana's hideout came from Jakarta.

[Theo] Oh, no. The Satgas Tuntas [Comprehensive Task Force] was instrumental in capturing Xanana. It is a unit that has the Intelligence Task Force at its nucleus in East Timor.

[TEMPO] What is the impact of Xanana's capture on Fretilin?

[Theo] Morally, it was a direct blow to the Fretilin members. Along with Xanana, we found documents indicating people within his first circle. They have been arrested. We hope to be able to uncover his other circle of friends from the first circle.

[TEMPO] How many people belonged to the first circle?

[Theo] There are almost 20 people, but do not interpret the first circle as staff or guards. They are clandestines [preceding word in English], close friends who helped him hide.

[TEMPO] According to the news that is circulating, the capture of Xanana led to the discovery that industrialists in Dili and Church members are linked to the clandestine group.

[Theo] It is true that there is a link between Dili industrialits and the group. However, to date there is nothing to indicate a link between the Church and the group.

[TEMPO] How many remaining members of Fretilin are there now?

[Theo] Hundreds of them. I have the list of the members. Even though the total number of members of the clandestine group and Xanana's symphatizers is big, we do not add them to the Fretilin membership list. There were almost 2,000 people who joined in the demonstration at Santa Cruz [cemetery area] last year.

[TEMPO] How many firearms does Fretilin now possess?

[Theo] Fretilin is now left with 108 or 109 firearms. This is a marked decrease. When I first came to assume my current post in East Timor, it had 170 of them. Its guns had either been left by the Portuguese or taken from Indonesian troops. There is no supply from abroad.

[TEMPO] With the capture of Xanana and the weakening of the Fretilin members, would it be possible for KOLAKOPS to be dissolved?

[Theo] I consider KOLAKOPS' combat task operations to have ended. Now they are carrying out territorial operations only. The important thing is that we are continuing to clamp down on Fretilin so its members will not dare come out to gain support from the people.

[TEMPO] Does the current situation in East Timor make it impossible for the KOREM [Military Sub-Area Command] to handle it?

[Theo] Actually, the KOREM can handle the situation. That is why the KOLAKOPS is now concentrating on the territorial operations. The composition of the territorial troops is getting larger. When I came to East Timor last January, there was an equal composition of six battalions of combat soldiers and six battalions of soldiers for territorial operations. Later, the territorial operations soldiers were increased to seven battalions, and the combat task soldiers were decreased to three battalions. The composition was changed again to eight battalions carrying out territorial operations, and two battalions doing combat tasks. Finally now we have nine battalions for territorial operations and only one battalion of combat soldiers. All together we have 10 battalions of soldiers in East Timor Province.

[TEMPO] Is that not too many?

[Theo] There are 442 villages, 62 subdistricts, and 13 regencies in East Timor. In the past, the residents killed each other during the social revolution. They fled from one village to another to take refuge. The previous social structure that regulated orderly life in the villages was destroyed. Now some of the villagers and village heads do not observe traditions that are recognized by the natives of each individual village. The efforts to arrange for orderly life in the villages are carried out by means of territorial operations. It is not possible for the military to rebuild everything merely through SK-SK [government decrees].

[TEMPO] How long would it take to tidy up the villages?

[Theo] In some villages tidying-up programs could be completed within a short period, while in some others it will not be possible to do so. For example, in the case of housing construction programs for the residents, it is impossible for us to build a house for everyone. So the program must be based on certain criteria. However, it is difficult to please every group. There is a group of people that feel they have the right to be receive priority treatment because they participated in the struggle against the rebels. There are people who think they are the ones who desperately need a home due to poverty, and there are those who feel that they should be rewarded because they voluntarily came out from the jungle and surrendered to the Indonesian authorities.

[TEMPO] Can't the housing program be taken over by the Public Housing Department?

[Theo] Under the Public Housing Department, housing programs are carried out by the building contractors who won the government's tender, whereas under the military's territorial operations we are able to understand and find a point of convergence to cater to the varying needs and interests of the villagers.

[TEMPO] Do armed clashes still occur frequently?

[Theo] We have not had any armed clashes for a long time.

[TEMPO] Has Fretilin changed its strategies and become an urban guerrilla organization?

[Theo] Right. But the military anticipated that. Therefore, ever since I joined the East Timor Military Command last January, territorial operations have been carried out in Dili. There facts show that territorial operations in the villages have been successful. During the territorial operations, soldiers perform the duty of giving medical treatment to wounded villagers who were victims of the combat operations. In view of this, the military is involved in the fields of economy, society, agricultural development, communications facilities, and transportation.

Talks on Timor To Continue With Portugal

BK1812115992 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1029 GMT 18 Dec 92

[Text] New York, Dec 18 (OANA/ANTARA)—Indonesia and Portugal here Thursday evening again expressed their differences over the East Timor issue but agreed to continue their dialogue under the auspices of the UN secretary general in April next year.

The Thursday meeting was the first of a series of dialogue sponsored by the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to settle the more than 15-year problem over the former colony of Portugal.

East Timor, which occupies the eastern half of the Timor island, integrated with Indonesia in 1976 through a self determination process.

Formerly, it was under Portuguese colonial administration for over 400 years.

Indonesia and Portugal through their Foreign Ministers Ali Alatas and Jose Manuel Durao Barroso told the press that their meeting went on in a frank atmosphere.

Both acknowledged that no significant progress had been achieved, although Alatas termed it as a rather constructive meeting.

The important thing is that both Indonesia and Portugal have the political will to continue their dialogue, Alatas said while his counterpart Barosso used the word positive to describe their meeting.

The office of the UN secretary general announced that the next dialogue would take place in Rome, Italy, on April 20.

Prior to the April meeting, there would be a preparatory dialogue conducted by the Indonesian and Portuguese ambassadors to the UN in New York.

The office also announced that both parties agreed to create a conducive atmosphere for the continuation of their dialogue.

According to Alatas, the format of the Thursday dialogue was identical to the previous ones which had been conducted with the sponsorship of the UN secretary general since 1983.

He underscored Indonesia's unchanged position over the issue, saying that the self determination process was already conducted 17 years ago when the majority of the East Timor people decided to integrate with Indonesia and declared the former Portuguese colony Indonesia's 27th province.

Portugal, on the other hand, has kept on demanding for a referendum in East Timor.

Saying that everything now depended on Portugal, Alatas urged Lisbon to adopt a rational and realistic attitide toward the East Timor issue.

Without such an attitude, we will never reach a better understanding, he said.

On what he termed as irrational and unrealistic attitude of Lisbon, Alatas said this included the Portuguese Government's insistence to include the East Timor representatives in Indonesia-Portugal dialogue.

Who are these "East Timor representatives?" the people of the now 27th province of Indonesia or a small number of East Timorese now residing abroad? Alatas said.

He reiterated that the self determination process taking place in the former Portuguese colony 17 years ago was in line with one of the three UN recognized processes.

The foreign minister further said that another irrational and unrealistic attitude of Lisbon was evident when it decided to cancel the visit of its parliamentary delegation to East Timor last year simply because Jakarta rejected the inclusion of an Australian free lance journalist in the party accompanying the delegation.

Alatas also said that Jakarta had allowed a number of Portuguese journalists to come to Indonesia.

It is high time that Lisbon does the same, he said.

Earthquake Hits Molucca Islands in East 23 Dec

BK2312085492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0627 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] JAKARTA, Dec 23 (AFP)—The third strong earthquake to hit eastern Indonesia this month shook the Moluccas Wednesday, the meteorological office here said.

The quake, measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale, occurred at 0300 GMT under the Banda Sea, some 160 kilometres (100 miles) northwest of Saumlaki, the main town on Yamdena island in the southeast Moluccas group, an official said. The Australian Seismological Centre in Canberra measured it at 6.3.

An earthquake measuring 5.4 shook the same region Monday, causing no reported damage or casualties, unlike the massive quake that hit the island of Flores on December 12. Some 2,500 people were killed in the Flores earthquake, that measured 6.8 on the Richter scale, most of them swept away by tidal waves.

Court To Try Aceh Separatist Leader in Absentia

BK2212071692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0557 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Jakarta, Dec 22 (AFP)—A court in Indonesia's westernmost province of Aceh will try in absentia Thursday an alleged leader of the separatist Aceh Merdeka (Free Aceh) movement, a report said here.

Darma Bakti alias Surya Darma, 32, had been allegedly involved in the movement since 1989, the SUARA KARYA daily quoted Lhok Seumawe attorney Sumanto as saying.

Aceh Merdeka, whose leader Hasan Di Tiro lives in Stockholm, has fought to set up a separate and Muslim state of Aceh since the 1970s. Sumanto said the authorities had several times called on Darma Bakti, who deserted from the military in 1985, to surrender.

The daily also quoted military chief Commander Try Sutrisno as calling for unity, adding, "There is no need to continue the struggle."

The armed forces last week said they had killed a deputy to Hasan Di Tiro, Keucik Umar, 60, and two bodyguards in an ambush.

According to well informed sources, more than 3,000 members of the movement were killed during military operations from July 1991 to March 1992.

Minister Discloses Projected 1992 Rice Surplus

BK2112131692 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 3 Dec 92 p 2

[Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS—Rice production in 1992 is projected to reach 30 million tons while domestic consumption is only about 25 million tons. As such, there will be a surplus of 5 million tons of rice. As a result of the surplus, the Bulog [National Logistics Bureau], an agency in charge of procuring rice from farmers, will have to spend a considerable amount of money to store such a great amount of rice. Agriculture Minister Wardoyo disclosed this to reporters after he met with President Suharto at the Bina Graha Presidential Office on 2 December.

The minister added that it was not exactly known yet how many billion rupiah will have to be spent to store the surplus rice. The Bulog has the capacity to store only 1 million tons of surplus rice annually. He noted that despite the trend toward rice surplus, the price paid to farmers will not fall lower than the basic price of 250 rupiah per kilogram.

The minister pointed out that it is still difficult to export the surplus rice because the overseas price is even lower. "We will lose money if we export it. Besides, it is stipulated in our Broad Outline of State Policy that our rice production is aimed at achieving and maintaining self-sufficiency in rice," he said. [passage omitted]

Trade Volume With Malaysia Up 'Considerably'

BK2012084892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Trade volume between Indonesia and Malaysia has increased considerably in the last five years as a result of growing cooperation between the two counties. Speaking in Kuching, Malaysia, yesterday, Junior Minister of Trade Sudrajat Jiwandono said that as of 1991, bilateral trade volume stood at 1.8 billion Malaysian ringgit, while in 1987 it stood at 500 million ringgit only. He pointed out that Malaysia is Indonesia's second largest trading partner in ASEAN after Singapore.

Speaking when he presented a paper at the Malindo III dialogue in Kuching, the minister expressed the hope that Indonesia's participation in the ASEAN Free Trade Area would not only promote trade relations within ASEAN, but also outside the regional grouping.

Laos

Status of Vote Count as of 22 Dec Reported

BK2212155192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] According to reports filed from many localities as of the morning of 22 December, the vote tallying and gathering of statistics from eligible voters who have actually exercised their voting rights at polling stations in many constituencies has been more or less completed.

Vientiane Municipality: In Sisattanak District, there were 47 voting stations with 33,540 eligible voters. The vote counting has been completed at 32 polling stations, with 205 void ballots. In Chanthabouli District there were 36 polling stations with 28,865 eligible voters. An estimated 96.50 percent of them turned up to vote, with 538 void ballots. In Sikhottabong District, 97.93 percent of more than 36,000 eligible voters came to the polling booths to vote, with 339 void ballots. In Hatsaifong District, there were 48 voting stations with more than 34,000 eligible voters. Some 98.32 percent of them cast their votes, with 182 defective ballots. In Nasaithong District, there were 29 polling stations with more than 18,000 eligible voters. Some 99.22 percent of them turned up to exercise their voting rights, with 114 incorrect ballots.

Savannakhet Province: There were 66 polling stations in Khanthabouli District with more than 52,000 eligible voters. Some 99.36 percent of them actually turned up to vote. Approximately 95 percent of the more than 17,000 eligible voters cast their votes at all 47 polling stations in Sepon District. There were 25 polling stations in Thapangthong District with 99.75 percent of more than 10,000 eligible voters turning up to vote. In Pathoumphom District, 99 percent of more than 26,000 eligible voters came to vote at 46 polling stations. There were 24 polling stations in Sonbouli District with more than 15,000 eligible voters. The vote tally has so far been completed in four cantons—Nong Pham, Kong-gna, Boungkam, and Souang—with 100 percent of more than 6,000 voters casting their ballots.

Saravane Province: Kong Sedon District had 42 polling stations, with 100 percent of more than 21,000 eligible voters casting their votes. Only 17 ballots were found to be void. There were 22 polling stations in Vapi District, with 21 of them having completed the vote tally of more than 12,000 voters.

Vientiane Province: There were 27 voting stations in Thoulakhom District, with vote counting completed at 14 of them, with 100 percent of more than 20,000 eligible voters turning up to vote, with only six void ballots. Some 15 voting stations out of 26 in Keo Oudom District have already completed vote tallying, with 100 percent of more than 7,000 eligible voters casting their votes, with five void ballots. Phonhong District has completed the vote counting at 25 polling stations, with 97.79 percent of more than 14,000 actual voters casting their votes. Forty ballots were found to be defective.

Sekong Province: Many polling stations had completed vote tallying as of 22 December—25 of 26 polling stations in Lamam District with more than 3,000 actual voters; and four of eight polling stations with combined voters of some 6,000 in Thateng Operation Zone, with 100 percent of the more than 2,897 voters in those four polling stations having voted.

Oudomsai Province: There were eight polling stations in Houn District Municipality, with 100 percent of more than 4,000 voters turning up to vote.

Phong Saly Province: All 100 percent of some 1,700 eligible voters cast their votes at all three polling stations in Gnot Ou District Municipality. The vote tally at seven polling stations in Phong Saly District Municipality has already been completed with 100 percent of more than 2,700 voters having casting their ballots.

Houa Phan Province: Samtai District municipality had four polling stations with 100 percent of 1,700 eligible voters excercising their rights. Vote counting at five out of six polling stations has also been completed in Viangsai District Municipality, with 99.54 percent of more than 2,000 eligible voters casting their votes. Seven ballots were found void here. Polling Station Nos. 45, 73, 26, and 16 in Sam Neua District and No. 33 in Siangkho District have also completed vote counting, with some 99.71 percent of more than 2,000 eligible voters casting their votes, with two void ballots.

Luang Namtha Province: There were 195 voting stations in this province. As of today, the vote tallying has been completed at 36 stations with more than 13,000 eligible voters, an equivalent of 29.60 percent of all voters in the province. Some 97.80 percent of them came to exercise their voting rights, with six void ballots reported.

Defense Minister Greets SRV Counterpart

BK2212134792 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 22 Dec 92

["Text" of greetings message from Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason, national defense minister, to General Doan Khue, SRV national defense minister; date not given]

[Text] Respected comrade minister: On the occasion of the 48th founding anniversary of the Vietnam People's Army [VPA], in my capacity as minister of national defense and on behalf of comrade cadres and combatants in the entire Lao People's Army [LPA], I would like to extend sincere salutations, cordial greetings, and best wishes to you, comrade, and all cadres and combatants in the entire heroic VPA.

Throughout the past 48 years, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], striving to implement the teachings of beloved and respected President Ho Chi Minh, the VPA has developed, been strengthened, and become a well-organized and modern army. It has overcome all difficult trials and, together with the multiethnic Vietnamese people, defeated all enemies, thereby scoring heroic deeds and precious achievements in the national liberation cause and the cause of defending and building their prosperous socialist country. The VPA has also worthily contributed to fulfilling its international obligations toward the Lao revolution to be worthy of the distinction of being a soldier of Uncle Ho Chi Minh as awarded by the Vietnamese people.

The LPA and the multiethnic Lao people would like to express profound gratitude to the party, government, people, and the fraternal people's army of Vietnam for having always given effective support and assistance to our Lao revolution. The LPA is very proud to have pure friends who have maintained the same combat traditions and fought in the same trenches, like the fraternal VPA.

I would like to avail myself of this glorious occasion to express my best wishes to the fraternal VPA. May the friendship, special solidarity, and all-around cooperation between the two nations and two armies of Laos and Vietnam last forever! I wish you, comrade minister, good health, happiness, and new successes in many fields in carrying out your noble and glorious cause.

President Urges Enhancing Thai Relations

BK2312040592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Dec 92 p 8

[By Sathidet Marukathat]

[Text] Vientiane—Laotian President Nouhak Phoumsavan has called for the implementation of Thai-Lao agreements as a next step to enhance relations between the two countries.

He also warned Thai investors to stop using business as a disguise to disintegrate the land-locked country.

The president made his remarks in a press conference at the presidential office last Sunday when Laos held an election for the National Assembly—its parliament—for the first time since having a new constitution last year.

President Nouhak said Thai-Lao relations could be enhanced by putting into practice all agreements signed by the two countries.

"We cannot stay idle. After this we must implement the agreements," he said.

Mr Nouhak, 78, added that the implementation was to "meet the long-term interests of the two countries."

"That would lead to the safeguard of peace and cooperation for both of us," he added.

Thailand and Laos signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation to use peaceful means to solve conflicts when Laotian Premier Khamtai Siphandon met with then prime minister Anan Panyarachun in Bangkok last February.

The two countries have signed bilateral agreements in various fields such as tourism and economic cooperation in the past few years.

Relations between Thailand and Laos have improved remarkably following several exchange visits by their leaders over the last two years, including HRH Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon and HRH Princess Maha Chakkri Sirinthon and the late Laotian president Kaysone Phomvihan.

But Mr Nouhak, who was appointed president in November after the death of Mr Kaysone, warned that bilateral relations could come to a halt unless some businessmen stop attempting to instigate Laotian people to "change" their country.

"There are some Thai businessmen who came here to do business as a pretext, but came to sow divisions in Laos which we do not want to see," he said.

"If we want to see lasting relations that has to be solved," the president reiterated.

Thailand ranks first in foreign investments in Laos. A total of 102 projects by Thai investors have been approved since 1988, the year Laos announced economic reforms, according to the latest figures of the Ministry of External Economic Relations.

Diplomatic sources in the Laotian capital said relations between Thailand and Laos have improved considerably since Thailand's arrest of anti-Laotian government insurgents.

Seven H'mongs were arrested in Loei Province in July on charges of attempting to launch a cross-border incursion into Laos. It was the first time Thailand successfully arrested anti-communist rebels.

Before that Laos had always accused Thailand of aiding rebels living in refugee camps to stage anti-government activities.

The Thai Government's attempts to capture robbers who stole Lao money from a bank and the subsequent return of the stolen money to Laos also reaffirmed Thailand's goodwill in improving relations with its neighbour, the sources added.

The two-million-dollar cash was stolen at Vientiane's Wattay airport on July 28 by a gang of Thais and Laotians including police officers.

President Nouhak also admitted that Thai-Lao relations were not smooth on some occasions but were satisfactory overall.

"Sometimes relations are not good. But throughout history we can see that relations between Laos and Thailand are good and cordial," he told reporters.

He affirmed that Laos has never been against other countries, but the country would like "to be a friend and to be in equality" with its neighbours.

Mr Nouhak said his country's intention was clear from its accession to the Bali Treaty which paved the way for being granted observer status With the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at its meeting of foreign ministers in July.

Philippines

Honasan, Other Rebel Officers Surface, Meet NUC

HK2312093292 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] The remaining rebel officers of the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union [RAM-KSP-YOU] have surfaced. In a scoop report by DZXL radio station through correspondent Joe Capadocia, it was learned that the RAM leaders first met with the National Unification Commission [NUC] and afterwards formally surfaced to fulfill the peace process of the Ramos administration.

The RAM leaders were led by former Colonel Gregorio Honasan and former Commodore Domingo Calajate. Aside from these two, former Colonels Felix Turingan and Reynaldo Samaco, former Colonel Billy Bibit, former Captain Danilo Lim, former Major Rey Ordonez, and former First Lieutenant Greg Panelo joined the returnees.

Among those who attended the meeting from the government side were NUC Chairperson Haydee Yorac, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon, Armed Forces Chief General Lisandro Abadia, Raul Imperial, Philippine National Police Director General and Congressman Jose Yap.

The historical event witnessed both sides signing a preliminary peace talks accord as well as the granting of safe conduct passes to the rebels.

Formal negotiations between the government and the rebel soldiers has been set for the second week of January as agreed upon by the NUC and the RAM-KSP-YOU in the meeting held at the University of the Philippines compound. Both parties have agreed to start negotiations immediately in order to fulfill the peace process.

Meanwhile, De Villa has assured 58 rebel soldiers presently detained to be released before Christmas as part of the government's amnesty program. He said President Fidel V. Ramos has ordered the release in accordance with the peace talks agreement between the government and the rightist rebels. Because of this, it is hoped that peace negotiations in the coming year will succeed .

Ramos Welcomes Reappearance

HK2312120092 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] President Fidel Ramos has expressed happiness over the reappearance of renegade Colonel Gringo Honasan.

Through presidential spokesperson Annabelle Tecson Abaya, DZRH learned that the president has looked at this development as another boost for his administration's peace program. This will also serve as a good example to other rebel soldiers who may finally decide to return to the fold of the law and live as normal citizens.

This is Abaya's statement:

[Begin Abaya recording] This will bolster the peace process that the president is very resolute in pursuing. [preceding sentence in English] Because of this, we expect that many of the rebels will return as productive members of society, and to join the mainstream of society. [end recording]

Cease-Fire To Go on Despite Rebel Attacks

HK2312023592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Defense Secretary Renato de Villa has assured that the cease-fire between government and rebel forces will go on despite reports of recent rebel attacks on several military detachments which resulted to the death of three persons. De Villa said the government will respect the leftist-declared truce, as well as suspending military operations against them.

Abadia Retains Military Red Alert Status

HK2312121292 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia has announced that the Armed Forces of the Philippines will remain on red alert while the cease-fire is in effect.

General Abadia said the authorities will closely monitor the cease-fire implementation during the Christmas and New Year holidays. The military chief of staff stressed that the red alert implementation is part of the armed forces preparation for any cease-fire violations by rebel groups. He clarified that the only thing the military will suspend is the launching of offensives against the rebels.

NUC Rejects NDF Demand for Foreign Mediator

HK2312064592 Quezon City MALAYA in English 23 Dec 92 p 2

[Report by Chit Estella]

[Text] With the question of venue still unresolved, the National Unification Commission [NUC] has indicated that the communist-led National Democratic Front's [NDF] other demand for an international mediator in the formal peace negotiations would not be acceptable.

NUC Chairperson Haydee Yorac said, however, the government might be open to the idea of having a Filipino organization mediate in the talks.

"Usaping Pilipino ito, eh. Siguro puwede naman tayong makakita ng mga facilitators dito na may moral authority [This is Filipino talk. I think we can look for facilitators here who have moral authority] she said in the television show "Public Forum."

She cited as example the Catholic Church and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

In the same program, former political detainees Satur Ocampo and Rodolfo Salas said the matter of having a credible international organization, like the United Nations, act as mediator is more important than the question of where to hold the talks.

Ocampo, former spokesman and negotiator for the NDF during the 1986-87 peace talks, said such a mediator should have the moral authority to bind both sides to whatever guidelines are agreed upon.

He also said a mediator would make it possible for negotiations to resume if, for some reason, these are broken.

He recalled that in the first peace talks of 1986, the two sides failed to get together again after the negotiations bogged down. Both panels agreed to suspend the talks after receiving information of a rightist rebels plan to violently disrupt the negotiations.

The collapse was further sealed by the occurrence of the Mendiola massacre in which farmers demonstrating near Malacanang were gunned down by government soldiers.

Salas, former chairman of the Communist Party of the Philippines and New People's Army, said a mediator would make it unnecessary for the NDF to deploy so many of its personnel to the peace process, thereby saving them from enemy surveillance.

Ocampo confirmed the NDF's recent statement that many national, regional, and local underground activists were unduly exposed during the peace talks and were subsequently arrested.

In pushing for a mediator, the former detainees also cited the Philippine Government's previous willingness to hold talks with the Moro National Liberation Front in Libya.

Yorac disputed this, saying the formal talks of 1987 were held in the Philippines and that the Organization of Islamic Conference merely acted as facilitator, not as mediator.

On the venue, Yorac hinted that while the governemnt is firmly insisting on holding the formal negotiations in the Philippines, it might be more flexible with regard to the exploratory talks. The NDF is calling for a second round of exploratory talks but has refused to conduct this in the Philippines for security reasons.

Rep. Jose Yap (LDP [Struggle of Filipino Democrats] Tarlac) said that so long as the NUC has not officially received a formal reaction from the NDF regarding the terms of the second exploratory meeting, it will not consider the rebels to have rejected this.

"I don't admit they refused to come here," Yap said, referring to NDF Spokesman Luis Jalandoni's press statement rejecting the government's offer of safe conduct for seven days.

Further on Rebels' Threat To Kill U.S. Missionary

HK2312023692 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Rebel Muslims who kidnapped Augustine Frazczack, an American Roman Catholic missionary, have threatened to kill him on Christmas Day if the they do not receive the ransom they asked for.

Former Zamboanga Governor Pedro Pamaran said a letter sent to him by the abductors stated that the ransom money demanded from the U.S. Government stays at 5 million Philippine pesos, following a letter earlier sent by Frazczack to local church leaders seeking help. The letter clarified that help be sought from the American Government and not from the Philippine Government and military, because they cannot do anything.

The kidnappers, members of the Moro National Liberation Front, reportedly told the missionary to say his last wishes together with the threat to kill him if they do not get the ransom money.

Military Fails To Meet Counterinsurgency Goals

HK2312050692 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE WEEKLY in English 23 Dec 92 p 8

[Report by Frank Longid Jr.]

[Text] Despite significant reductions in the strength, firearms and barangay affected by communist insurgents, the Armed Forces failed to meet its yearend counterinsurgency targets, according to military documents obtained by the Chronicle.

As of Dec. 15 this year, the strength of the Communist Party of the Philippines' [CPP] New People's Army [NPA] was listed at 11,770, its firearms at 8,640 and the rebel-affected barangay at 2,082. These figures were presented at the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] command conference last Saturday.

Although they represent substantial reductions from last year's figures of 14,800 (strength), 10,510 (firearms) and 3,625 (barangays affected), they fall short of the military's goals of 10,000, 7,000 and 2,000, respectively.

The AFP chief of staff, Gen. Lisandro Abadia, had stated that attaining these goals would be indicative of achieving strategic control over the insurgency.

As early as June of this year, alleged former NPA chief Romulo Kintanar predicted that the AFP would not achieve its goal. "Palagay ko itong strategic control by isang panaginip ng militar dahil, marami pang lugar kung saan malakas ang kilusan." [I feel that this strategic control is a dream by the military since many areas are still under the movement's control.]

AFP officials had earlier stated that the reason behind the military's falling short of its goals was in part because of the resources allocated to the performance of election duties and the conduct of relief and rehabilitation efforts in disaster-stricken areas.

The documents also disclosed that the number of guerrilla fronts has been reduced to 41, down from last year's 47, despite the recent reactivation of a front in Zamboanga del Norte.

More significant is the reduction of civilian fatalities as a result of counterinsurgency operations, which has gone down from 538 last year to 278 this year. This figure peaked in 1985 at 1,362.

According to military records, only 362 "CPP-NPA terroristic activities" were recorded for the year, NPA raids were listed at 60, and "liquidations" were listed at 160. These figures peaked in 1985 at 1,259, 318, and 1,029 respectively.

For the year, the military has "neutralized" at least 48 leaders of the CPP-NPA: "three central committee members, one functional commission leader, one territorial leader, 21 regional leaders, 20 provincial leaders, and two district leaders."

At least 2,447 CPP-NPA "regulars" (armed rebels) have also been "neutralized": 830 were killed, 655 captured and 962 have surrendered.

The AFP has paid a total of P9.1 million [Philippine pesos] in reward money for the year.

Despite the failure of the military to attain its stated goals, Abadia stressed that "the AFP has substantially achieved our objective of attaining strategic control by the end of 1992."

A military officer who attended the command conference pointed out that the 2,082 rebel-affected barangay "represent only 5% of the nation's total number of barangay."

The AFP had planned to attain strategic control over the insurgency by the end of this year, in preparation for turning over the counterinsurgency campaign to the Philippine National Police [PNP].

President Ramos last Monday acknowledged the AFP's failure to achieve strategic control over the CPP-NPA when he extended by one year the deadline for turning over counterinsurgency operations to the PNP.

But the military intelligence chief, Brig. Gen. Alfredo Filler, said that "the attainment of strategic control cannot be assessed quantitatively." The Department of National Defense has defined strategic control as "the stage where the enemies lose initiative, momentum, space and mobility."

A ranking military official stated that "if we will base our assessment on this (DND's [Department of National Defense] definition, we can safely say that we have indeed attained strategic control over the rebels."

Abadia himself acknowledged the need to make the assessment of strategic control a qualitative judgment. "We want to implement some qualitative or subjective parameters like how the people feel in the area or if normal economic life has been restored."

The documents attributed the "significant reductions" to the military's Lambat Bitag [Net Trap] campaign launched in July 1988. The campaign places emphasis on conducting civil-military operations instead of regular battlefield operations.

Members of Abadia's staff disclosed that, with the legalization of the CPP, Lambat Bitag may have to be modified. "We can no longer target their (rebels') political infrastructure," Filler said. A camp Aguinaldo source said "psychological warfare operations will still go on...but these will no longer be aimed at dismantling their political structures."

Government To Campaign Against EC Quotas

HK1812065592 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 18 Dec 92 p 1

[Report by Genevieve I. Soledad]

[Text] The Philippines will muster the support of its Southeast Asian neighbors in staving off the European Community's (EC) proposed annual quota on canned tuna and sardines.

Edsel Custodio, officer-in-charge of the international trade group of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), said the Philippines will ask the other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to come up with a common stand on the quota issue.

The Philippines, Mr Custodio stressed, will be initiating the move to forge a common consensus.

Whatever position paper the ASEAN will come up with will then be forwarded to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The EC will slap a quota system on imports of canned tuna and sardines.

The scheme will take effect in January next year and will be in place for four years, providing for a minimum annual growth of 6%.

The move was spurred by two EC members—France, which has investments in the fishing industries of its former colonies, and Italy, which has its own domestic fishing industry to protect.

Both countries are now imposing regional limits on third country imports of canned tuna and sardines.

With the implementation of the European Single Market next year, these regional limits will be converted into an EC wide quota.

This quota is on top of an existing market barrier imposed by the EC on canned tuna exports.

According to a DTI report, Philippine canned tuna (skipjack) is penalized with a duty of 22% ad valorem in contrast to canned tuna bonito which is slapped with 18% ad valorem under the generalized system of preferences.

The Philippines is among the top three ASEAN exporters of canned tuna and sardines. The other two are Indonesia and Thailand.

Last year, the country shipped $10.3 million worth of canned tuna exports to the EC. As of September this year, exports of canned tuna to the EC reached $5.88 million.

Thailand

Prasong: UN Fails To Solve Cambodian Problem

BK2212145392 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri said during an interview at the Foreign Ministry yesterday that foreign countries which blame Thailand for the Cambodian problem are only trying to avoid the problem and push the burden onto the Thai side by making a big issue of Thailand's endeavors to help Thai businessmen doing business in Cambodia. As a matter of fact, Thai businessmen have been dealing with all Cambodian factions in a legal and open manner because there were no restrictions in the past. However, the Thai Government is ready to comply with all the measures to impose pressure on the Cambodian faction. As those measures have not yet become effective, the Thai Government, naturally, must look after the interests of Thai citizens, and this is fair enough.

The foreign minister said the Thai Government is ready to comply with every sanction against the Cambodian faction. If Thailand's request for relaxation of the log export ban to become effective on 31 December is rejected, the Thai Government will comply with the UN resolution and other relevant decisions such as the setting up of checkpoints along the border. The Thai side will set up checkpoints inside Thai territory opposite those of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, UNTAC. Moreover, the Cabinet has also adopted a resolution instructing agencies concerned to work out measures to enforce the ban on oil exports to Cambodia.

Touching on former French foreign minister Claude Cheysson's criticism against Thailand for supporting the Khmer Rouge, the foreign minister said the Thai side had earlier clarified the issue to the French side. It is unfair to link the Thai Government's atttempt to look after the interests of Thai citizens with the UN failure to settle the Cambodian problem. It sounded like they could not find anyone responsible for the failure so they placed the blame on Thailand. The past contribution made by Thailand to bringing peace to Cambodia has been forgotten.

Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri said the United Nations went inside Cambodia to solve the Cambodian problem because it thought the problem was easy to solve. Therefore, it fixed the date for the election. As time and its budget are running out, the United Nations is accelerating things to end the problem. In fact, Cambodia can never have durable peace without the cooperation of all the Cambodian factions. If there is an election without the Khmer Rouge's participation, Cambodia will be divided into two parts.

Noting that the Cambodian problem must be solved by the Cambodian people, the foreign minister proposed that the election of the president of Cambodia be held before the general election so the new leader can take further action. Thailand deems Prince Norodom Sihanouk the most suitable for the presidency because he is respected by the Cambodian people and recognized by the international community. He said he had talked with all Cambodian factions about the matter and they agreed with him.

Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri said in order to salvage Thailand's image in the international community and avoid more confusion, the Thai people must not exploit this issue for political gain and put the blame on each other as some people are now doing, despite the fact the problem is the consequence of their past activities. Even other ASEAN member countries are discontented with them.

Cabinet Approves Closure of Border With Cambodia

BK2212152692 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] The Cabinet has adopted a resolution on the closure of the border with Cambodia in compliance with the deadline set by the United Nations on 31 December.

General Charan Kunlawanit, secretary general of the National Security Council, told reporters that the Thai business people along the border with Cambodian will have to comply with the Cabinet's decision. It is illegal to transport logs from Cambodia after the closure of the border. However, the government will try to talk to the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia to request the relaxation to allow more time for the transportation of logs out of Cambodia after the scheduled closure of the border.

[Begin General Charan recording] We will try to help the business people so that they will have time enough to bring their logs and equipment back to the country. We will ask them to extend the 31 December deadline. I would like to remind business people about the time limitation. So far, we have not yet received the approval from the SNC. The UN side is considering our request and has been very cooperative but it must also seek advice from the SNC, the owner of the country. We are not delaying the procedure. They are the ones who make the decision. [end recording]

Editorial: Handle Cambodia With 'Great Care'

BK2212104992 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 22 Dec 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Thailand vs Condemnation"]

[Text] The voice condemning Thailand for its trade with the Khmer Rouge has become louder. At least two high-level officials of the economic giants, namely France and Japan, share a similar opinion that Thailand is exploiting the natural resources of Cambodia. The first person to voice such an opinion was Yasushi Akashi, head of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia], whose mission is to restore peace and organize a general election in Cambodia.

During an interview granted to BBC, Yasushi Akashi criticized Thailand's trade relations with the Khmer Rouge. Although he later said he did not mention the name of any country during the interview, a BBC correspondent interpreted the UNTAC head's comment as implying Thailand. Another big shot who condemned Thailand's involvement in Cambodia is Claude Cheysson, former French foreign minister and currently member of the European Parliament. Speaking at a Paris meeting on "Cambodia in 1993," he said Thailand is committing crimes in Cambodia through its collaboration with the Khmer Rouge in madly plundering the natural resources of Cambodia.

However, the condemnation by both Yasushi Akashi and Claude Cheysson is of a hypocritical nature. Considering the past behavior of both Japan and France, those two countries, much more than Thailand, have been exploiting natural resources in different parts of the world. Their comments were merely based on their judgment of other people's faults without considering those of their own countries. Since they come from countries with great economic power, Thailand cannot simply turn deaf ears to what they say.

Thailand's immediate problem is that it must explain to the businessmen who are trading with the Khmer Rouge the reason Thailand must comply with the UN resolution and encourage them to withdraw themselves from Cambodia. The suspension of trade with the Khmer Rouge will be temporary. After the Cambodian problem is settled, trade can be resumed. Otherwise, Thailand can become a scapegoat for the Cambodian problem if major economic powers decide to impose economic sanctions against it. This is a very fragile issue and Thailand must handle it with great care.

There is a possibility that the Cambodian problem will become a war between the UN forces and Khmer Rouge. The proposal to use force against the Khmer Rouge—put forth by the director of the Asian Affairs Department of the French Foreign Ministry—could lead the UN force to become stuck in the quagmire for an unpredictable length of time in Cambodia. It is unlikely that Thailand will send its troops to join the UN force in Cambodia. In fact, if possible, we should pull our engineering corps out of Cambodia because we must deal with all Cambodian factions equally. We do not want to be the enemy of any faction.

Prasong, Chatchai Compete for SRV Leaders' Trust

BK2312024592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Dec 92 p A6

[Editorial: "For Prasong, Chatchai is a hard act of follow"]

[Text] It is rather strange that Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and former premier Chatchai Chunhawan should try to undercut each other in their separate attempts to claim credit for the proposed Indochina Development Fund, an idea that is still on the drawing board.

Chatichai bested Prasong when he reached the ear of Vietnamese leaders in Hanoi earlier this week. Prasong is to leave for Hanoi this morning, and he plays catch up by cautioning that Chatchai, being merely the leader of the second largest opposition party, should not raise false hopes in Vietnam by promising things that he cannot deliver.

In their usual style, Vietnamese leaders are subtly playing Chatchai against Prasong in this diplomatic game that Vietnam cannot lose. Thus Chatchai was treated as if he were still Thai premier. Vietnamese Premier Vo Van Kiet held formal and private talks with him; he even found time to play tennis with the Thai veteran politician who toured Vietnam on an official invite from Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of the State Committee on Cooperation and Investment.

The warm welcome was apparently meant as a show of appreciation for Chatchai's promotion of Thai trade and investment in Vietnam under his policy "to transform the war zone in Indochina into a trade zone" during his time as premier (1988-91). They were also pleased to hear Chatchai's "progress report" on the Indochina Development Fund and the proposal to build a second Thai-Lao border bridge across the Mekong River to facilitate land transport from northeastern Thailand through southern Laos to the deep-sea port in Danang in central Vietnam.

Both projects will chiefly involve funding by the Japanese government. And both projects will greatly benefit northeastern Thailand—the political stronghold of Chatchai's Chat Phatthana Party.

Prasong did not question the merit of the Indochina Development Fund. In fact his deputy, Surin Phitsuwan, is in Tokyo this week to explore the latest in Japanese thinking on this ambitious idea. If it is established, the fund can be used, among other things, to guarantee direct foreign investment in Indochina against state expropriation.

Such assurance, its proponents say, can induce more foreign investment in Indochina. But the need for such a guarantee is diminishing as the three Indochinese governments revise their investment promotion laws and ease restrictions on foreign exchange control. The main hindrance to increased foreign investment in Indochina is poor economic infrastructure, not political uncertainties.

In the long run, building a second Thai-Lao bridge can benefit Laos and Vietnam as much as Thailand. The Japanese government may be interested in funding this project, like the Australian government is doing for the first bridge (now under construction) between Nong Khai and Vientiane. But if the Japanese government wants to help, it could have conveyed its intention to the Chuan administration so that Foreign Minister Prasong would have some good news to take to Hanoi.

This trip will be a rather modest one for Prasong in terms of achievements.

He and his Vietnamese counterpart will sign agreements on avoiding double taxation and on Thailand's Bt [baht] 150 million long-term credit to Vietnam, both of which were inherited from the Anan administration.

Prasong, though, will have his chance to make an impression on Vietnamese leaders during courtesy calls on Premier Kiet and President Le Duc Anh.

This will be important because Prasong, unlike Chatchai, may still be seen as a foe rather than a friend of Vietnam in light of him being an anti-communist bureaucrat during the Cold War.

The warm welcome Chatichai received in Vietnam clearly showed that Vietnamese leaders value Thai friendship.

This puts increased pressure on Prasong to try to win the trust of Vietnamese leaders, especially if Prasong has nothing new to offer Vietnam [other] than a set of X-ray equipment donated by Thailand.

However, if Prasong manages to convince Vietnamese leaders that he—not Chatchai—can speak for Thailand in Thai-Vietnamese relations, his trip this week would be a success under the existing difficult circumstances.

Prasong To Seek SRV Guarantee on Ethnic Vietnamese

BK2312032392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Dec 92 p A1, A2

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri, leaving today for Vietnam, is expected to seek assurances from Hanoi that tens of thousands of Vietnamese immigrants in Thailand would automatically lose their Vietnamese citizenship upon the acquisition of citizenship here, a Foreign Ministry press release said.

It said Prasong would also inform Hanoi of progress by the Interior Ministry in granting Thai citizenship to those people. Prasong leaves today for a three-day official visit to strengthen a renewed friendship in the suspicion-ridden relationship between Thailand and Vietnam.

As part of an effort to dispel mutual suspicions between the two former foes, the government of former premier Anan Panyarachun in March approved a Foreign Ministry proposal to grant citizenship to about 6,000 third-generation Vietnamese born in Thailand and, following that, to about 20,000 second-generation Vietnamese living here. The screening process took place in August, when the National Security Council, formerly a major opponent of the idea, gave its nod to the proposal.

Despite Hanoi's earlier assurances that it would consider the Vietnamese who acquired Thai citizenship legally Thai citizens, Thai officials in some quarters complained that Vietnam's Nationality law was ambiguous about the possibility that the ethnic Vietnamese residents could end up with dual citizenship.

About 40,000-50,000 ethnic Vietnamese live in Thailand, the bulk of them having arrived during the Indochina War in the 1950s. They were for a long time considered illegal immigrants and their movements were restricted to ten provinces—Prachin Buri, Surat Thani, Patthalung and seven provinces in the Northeast.

Informed sources said the Interior Ministry had so far finished screening 3009 of 6000 people tentatively classified as third-generation Vietnamese—those born in Thailand to parents who were also born here. The ministry would be able to grant them Thai citizenship by the end of this month, the sources, who asked not to be named, said.

The other 3,000 cases are still under investigation as some of them were suspected to be second-generation Vietnamese, their parents were born outside Thailand or their documentation was otherwise unclear.

The sources said the number of subversive acts committed by members of this community had decreased, especially since last year when Hanoi and Bangkok agreed to bury their past acrimony.

Under the amended Nationality Act of 1992 Vietnamese children born to either Vietnamese parents or to a Thai mother or father became eligible for Thai citizenship. Children whose parents were born outside Thailand would also benefit by the law.

About 20,000 second-generation Vietnamese who were children of refugees arriving in Thailand in the 1950s would also benefit by this law, according to the same sources. They added, however, that the screening process for this category was progressing quite slowly, with only 700 applicants so far being considered.

The sources said the Interior Ministry was likely to speed up the screening process for this group after it completed the granting of Thai citizenship to the third-generation applicants.

Prasong Comments on Goals of SRV Trip

BK2312092992 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri spoke with newsmen this morning prior to departing for an official visit to the SRV at the invitation of the Vietnamese foreign minister. He said the visit will benefit development of bilateral relations and cooperation on the basis of mutual assistance. This reflects the current government's policy of giving importance to neighboring countries.

The foreign minister said during the visit there would be discussions on outstanding problems, such as sea boundaries, and setting up of a joint development area in the sea territory, which overlaps technically and legally in accordance with international law, in order to avoid a dispute in the future. This is because the issue concerns each country's sovereignty and interests. There will be negotiations for release of many Thai fishermen now detained in Vietnam. The issue of Vietnamese refugees who fled to Thailand from the war in Indochina some 40 years will also be discussed. Vietnam has never expressed its intent to accept repatriation of these refugees.

There will also be discussions on expansion of trade and economic cooperation to boost the confidence of investors from both countries. The foreign minister said an agreement will be signed on a long-term credit worth 150 million for Vietnam for development of education, public health, agriculture, and other fields. An agreement on avoidance of double taxation will also be signed. The two agreements are the result of extensive negotiations by both sides, and they have been approved by the Cabinet. The agreements will significantly contribute to business dealings between the two countries.

Ministry Rounds Up Illegal Burmese Students

BK2012055892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 20 Dec 92 p A2

[Text] Ten Burmese students who refused to enter a government holding centre in Ratchaburi were arrested and charged with illegal entry a senior Interior Ministry official said.

Deputy Permanent Secretary for Interior Chaiwat Hutacharoen said yesterday the Burmese students would be given the option of entering the Ratchaburi camp or remain in detention pending resettlement in a third country.

The Burmese, who had been arrested in the past week, were being detained at the Immigration Division in Soi Suanplu.

The Interior Ministry had set Nov 30 as the deadline for 516 Burmese registered with it as students to report to the detention centre. Only 11 Burmese have entered the Ratchaburi camp so far.

Burmese student leaders in Thailand have said they will petition the government to set a new deadline for students to enter the detention centre because they did not trust the Interior Ministry.

They claimed that Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut, while supreme commander in 1988, sent about 300 Burmese students back to Rangoon. Many of the students were repatriated against their will.

Early this month, Gen Chavalit promised that none of the Burmese students would be repatriated even if they refused to enter the Ratchaburi camp.

The Burmese students said they did not want to go to the camp because they would be deprived of the monthly allowance provided by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) once they were admitted to the camp.

However, the UNHCR has announced it will continue to provide the subsistence payment to the Burmese students it previously recognized as refugees.

Most of the Burmese students fled into Thailand after a bloody crackdown during pro-democracy movements in Burma in late 1988. There are more than 5,000 Burmese students in Thailand.

Many of the students were given refugee status by the UNHCR. A few years ago the agency withdrew that status under pressure from the Interior Ministry.

The Interior Ministry wants the Burmese students to live in the Ratchaburi camp to prevent them from carrying out anti-Rangoon activities in Thailand.

Burmese Troops Still on Hill 491; Deadline Nears

BK2312034792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 23 Dec 92 p A2

[Text] Scores of Burmese troops still occupy the disputed Hill 491 as the deadline agreed by Thailand and Burma to clear the area of a military presence approaches, police chief Sawat Amonwiwat said yesterday.

The police director general confirmed Burmese troops remained on the hill which they captured from the Karen early this year.

Pol Gen Sawat was speaking in Chumphon province after observing areas near the hill which is claimed by both countries. Thailand argues that the hill is located in Chumphon's Tha Sae district.

In a compromise to avoid a border war, the two countries agreed early this month to turn the hill into a "no-man's land" pending a survey by a fact-finding team to delineate the area.

The agreement fixes Dec 25 as the final day for troops from both sides to pull back one kilometre from their current positions.

Sawat said Thai soldiers and border patrol police have closely monitored the movement of Rangoon troops, which they suspect may have pulled out earlier only to return to the hill later.

A border patrol police source told THE NATION that there are some 50 Burmese troops on the hill and hundreds have been mobilized nearby in Burmese territory.

However, there are still two days left for the Burmese troops to comply with the joint agreement and withdraw.

When the dispute started last month there were no Thai troops on the hill, Sawat said. Thai border patrol police initially stationed at the foot of the hill have already been relocated in line with the agreement.

In February, Burmese troops successfully drove out Karen guerrillas who had entrenched themselves on the hill for years. The hill, approximately 1,000 metres high, gave Burmese troops a strategic advantage when attacking the Karen.

The Thai-Burmese Boundary Committee chaired by the foreign ministers of both countries has not yet scheduled a date for a meeting to discuss the matter before sending the fact-finding team into the disputed area.

Only 54 km of about 2,000 km of the Thai-Burmese border has been officially demarcated.

Development Plan for Full Democracy Unveiled

BK2212031192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 22 Dec 92 pp 1, 2

[Text] The National Research Council has drawn up the first ever political development plan, aimed to bring about full democracy to Thailand to correspond with the country's rapid social and economic development.

The political development plan, which was made public yesterday, sets the ambitious goal of making democracy in Thailand conform with today's international standard by the year 2012, or 20 years from now.

The plan recommends that the government should, among other things, strive to promote political awareness among the people, decentralize government power to encourage greater public participation in government decision-making, strengthen political parties and expand their popular base.

To sustain Thailand's democratization process, the government and people from all walks of life must join hands to prevent any attempt by the military to stage another coup, must gradually revise the Constitution to make it truly democratic, give civilian governments the chance to complete their four-year terms, depoliticize the military and reduce the influence of bureaucrats by decentralizing the government's power, according to the plan.

The National Research Council, a semi-independant on-going group made up primarily of prominent academics and government officials, expressed the hope that the government would adopt and implement the plan alongside the five-year National Economic and Social Development Plans.

The council, which is under the Office of the National Research Committee, of the Prime Minister's Office, decided to come up with a political development plan shortly after the May 17-20 bloodshed in which at least 52 pro-democracy protesters were killed in a brutal crackdown by troops.

The committee responsible for the plan, chaired by Chulalongkon University political science professor Kramon Thongthammachat, said the recurrence of political turmoil and the stagnation in democratization could be attributed to the lack of a "well-rounded and balanced" development of the basic components of democracy.

"Thailand has already implemented seven National Economic and Social Development Plans that resulted in rapid and systematic progress in economic and social conditions.... But the country's political condition remains subject to the old vicious circle repeated over the past 60 years since the country became a constitutional monarchy," the political development plan says.

It says economic and social advancement had transformed Thailand into a pluralist society and led to the emergence of a self-confident middle-class which aspired to bring about full democracy in the country.

"Government officials, military and civilian, contribute significantly to the stagnation in democratization," the plan says.

According to the plan, the country's political development over the past 60 years evolved around the "vicious cycle" in which a civilian government is formed following a general election and leads to a political crisis caused by the deterioration of the government's credibility. The military then seizes the opportunity to overthrow the civilian government and sets up an authoritarian regime which after some time is faced with a growing pro-democracy movement calling for a more democratic environment and a general election.

It says a large section of the Thai population is still inclined to authoritarianism and to participation in patron-client relationships whose form can be traced back to Buddhist and Hindu influences on Thai culture, despite the modernization the country has undergone. This explains why many Thais so readily accept authoritarianism as a fact of life, the plan says.

Government Planners Forecast 8% Growth for 1993

BK2212025592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 22 Dec 92 pp 17, 26

[Text] The National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) has predicted the country's economy will grow 8 percent next year, faster than this year's rate, with inflation expected to be higher at 5 percent.

But the board warned economic growth would not remain strong unless the Government implemented a package of plans to stimulate the economy.

The prediction was made by the NESDB in its report Thailand's Economic Outlook in 1992 and Trends in 1993, which was submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

The package of measures aimed at stimulating the economy included:

—Stimulating private and direct foreign investment by launching a campaign to persuade foreign investors to invest in Thailand and improving the investment information system.

—Escalating the savings policy, such as by establishing provident funds, life assurance saving schemes and mutual funds.

—Looking at public uilities which have higher-than-normal service charges.

—Speeding-up improvements to the transportation system to eradicate problems such as bottle-necks at Khlong Toei Port.

—Hastening the payment of VAT [value-added tax] rebates to exporters.

—Lowering the high import taxes on raw materials.

—Improving the level of education and labour training to satisfy industry demand for skilled workers.

—Decentralising development to the provinces, concentrating on the potential of each industry in each area.

—Solving the problem of agricultural water shortages.

The NESDB said economic growth would climb from this year's expected level of 7.4 percent as a result of more positive domestic and external factors than this year.

The external factors expected to contribute to Thailand's economic growth included global economic recovery, such as in the United States, Japan, newly-industrialised countries and ASEAN, with the exclusion of Western Europe which would remain sluggish.

The global recovery would result in trade expansion, it said.

But the board warned that trade protection would also intensify next year and hurt Thailand's tapioca and textile export.

The NESDB said production in the agricultural sector would expand only 2.5 percent next year because of the water shortage problem which would affect major crops, particularly the second rice crop.

The growing areas for the second rice crop would be minimised under the Government's policy to save water.

The NESDB said the prices of several farm products, including rice, tapioca, pineapple and coffee, would fall.

It predicted a 10 percent expansion in private sector investment next year, citing the implementation of several huge projects including Shell Thailand's 50,000-million-baht oil refinery project at Map Ta Phut Industrial Estate, Caltex's 40,000-million-baht oil refinery project and 20,000-million-baht petrochemical project, as well as the speeding-up of the Eastern Seaboard Project and the development of the country's second international airport at Nong Ngu Hao.

But investment in Board of Investment-promoted projects would decline next year, it said.

Tax reductions which would be introduced under the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) agreement would induce both local and foreign investment in sectors in which Thailand was very competitive, such as rubber products, ceramics, glass products, electonics, textiles, gems and jewellery and cement.

The NESDB forecast that exports would grow, but at a declining rate. Total export value was expected to increase 14.9 percent from 840,000 million baht this year to 965,000 million baht next year.

The increase was lower than this year because of the higher cost of raw materials and labour, which would make Thai exports less competitive with exports from China and Indonesia.

But the NESDB forecast brighter export prospects for some items, including canned baby corn, canned fruit juices, processed seafood, canned bamboo shoots, electronic calculators, ceramics, air conditioners and parts, toys, cameras and camera equipments.

But imports were expected to increase 14 percent to 1,220,000 million baht because of two main factors—an increase in capital good and raw material imports and the restructure of the taxes, on imported semi-raw materials and cars.

Thailand was therefore expected to suffer a 256,000-million-baht trade deficit, equivalent to 7.6 percent of Gross Domestic Product, it said.

This year's trade deficit would be ahout 230,000 million baht or 7.7 percent of GDP.

The total current account deficit would be 5.9 percent of GDP, or about 200,000 million baht, although the country's service balance would improve because of the recovery of the tourism sector.

This year's current account deficit would be about 180,000 million baht, or 6.1 percent of GDP.

The board predicted the inflation rate would increase from 4.2 percent this year to 5 percent next year beacuse of growth in consumer spending and investment and increases in the prices of public utility services including electricity, water and transportation.

Vietnam

Commentary Reviews Latest Kerry Visit

BK2212133992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on MIA/POW issues, Senator John Kerry, said Vietnam is acting with goodwill and that the United States should respond to it with goodwill. Senator John Kerry was speaking to newsmen at San Francisco airport after returning from Vietnam. Here is our radio's opinion on the issue:

Senator John Kerry made known that he certified to Vietnam both about its great success in collecting information on missing American servicemen in the Vietnam war. This time the Vietnamese Government handed over all documents and materials asked for by the United States during the visit in early November and even more than that. On the number of American pilots shot down in Laos, Senator John Kerry said that the Vietnamese side is trying to get more information to give to United States. Particularly, his delegation received information on American planes shot down along the Ho Chi Minh trail on Lao territory, including some materials with lists of names and totals of American pilots.

Speaking with newsmen at San Francisco airport, Senator John Kerry said he and Senator Smith, vice chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA issue, who was accompanying him during his Vietnam visit, will allow for Vietnam to take a look at all files of POW's. [sentence as heard] He said, during his working sessions with Vietnamese officials, the latter maintained that all live American prisoners of war were returned to the American side in 1973. On the position that some MIA committee on the (?certification) of POW/MIA issue, Senator John Kerry said that we should not worry [words indistinct] looks good at what has been written by his delegation. It is true. He also made known that at present new invention on a new visit to Vietnam is made. However, he said, unless a plan to take the message of POW/MIA families and (?to coax old veterans) to visit Vietnam.

On the process of normalization of relations between Vietnam and the United States, Senator John Kerry stressed that the United States sees that Vietnam is acting with goodwill, therefore, we have to do the same, and step by step, adjusting to the final goal of establishing good relations between the two countries.

ROK Restores Diplomatic Ties With Hanoi

YONHAP Reports Accord

SK2212051692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0510 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi, Dec. 22 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea and Vietnam restored relations severed in 1975 and agreed to work together for ideal cooperation when Foreign Ministers Yi Sang-ok and Nguyen Manh Cam signed a joint statement Tuesday.

Ties were severed when the Indochinese country fell to the North Vietnamese communists. Korea fought for the South in the Vietnam war, the "unfortunate past" that Yi urged the two countries to overcome.

It was the responsibility of the people of the two countries to rise above the unhappy past and develop forward-looking cooperative relations, Yi told Cam in foreign ministers' talks following diplomatic normalization.

Yi and Cam agreed to establish a joint economic committee headed by vice ministerial-level officials and conclude trade, aviation, investment guarantee and avoidance of double taxation pacts.

The two countries have already initialed an accord on economic and technological cooperation.

South Korea will open a consulate-general in Ho Chi Minh City in addition to an embassy in Hanoi.

They also agreed to expand exchange of government leaders, and Yi invited Cam to visit South Korea at the earliest date.

Yi and Cam exchanged opinions on political developments around the Korean peninsula and Indochina, and pledged cooperation for peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific.

Yi is to call on Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet in the afternoon to discuss Seoul-Hanoi relations. He will meet with President Le Duc Anh before leaving for home on Wednesday.

VNA Reports Establishment of Ties

BK2212151592 Hanoi VNA in English 1434 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 22—The Vietnamese Government and the Government of the Republic of Korea have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as from December 22, 1992.

The two governments agreed to develop the relations of friendship and cooperation on the basis of the principles of international law and the UN Charter.

Premier Receives ROK's Yi Sang-ok

BK2212152992 Hanoi VNA in English 1440 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 22—Premier Vo Van Kiet received here today Mr. Yi Sang-ok, foreign minister of the Republic of Korea and his party now on an official visit to Vietnam.

Also present at the reception were Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Ambassador Pak No-su, head of the R.O.K. Liaison Office in Hanoi.

Premier Vo Van Kiet highly praised the experiences of the R.O.K. in national construction and its scientific, technical and technological achievements which will be very useful to Vietnam. He said that the cooperation between Vietnam and the R.O.K. should include also the exchange of experiences and technological transfer.

In his reply, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok said that ROK attaches importance to the development of its cooperation with Vietnam in the interests not only of the two sides but also of the strengthening of peace, friendship, stability and cooperation in the region. He added that R.O.K. will increase the mutual exchange of visits including visits by high-level delegations and will create every possible condition for R.O.K. businesses to invest in Vietnam.

Nguyen Manh Cam Talks With Yi Sang-ok

BK2312095392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] This morning at the Government Guesthouse in Hanoi, SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam held talks with His Excellency Yi Sang-ok, foreign minister of the Republic of Korea [ROK].

Attending the talks on the ROK side were Mr. Pak No-su, head of the ROK Liaison Office in Hanoi; Mr. (Kim Suk-ou), chief of the ROK Foreign Ministry's Asian Department; and many other high-ranking officials of the ROK Foreign Ministry. On the Vietnamese side were Comrade Le Duc Cang, assistant to the SRV Foreign Minister; Comrade Nguyen Van Khieu, chief of the SRV Foreign Ministry's East Asia Department; and other high-ranking officials of the Foreign Ministry and agencies concerned.

The two ministers briefed each other on the situation in their respective countries, exchanged views on international and regional issues of mutual concern, and discussed measures to expand cooperation between the two nations in various domains.

The two ministers expressed delight on the development of bilateral relations during the past period. They asserted great potential for economic cooperation between the two countries and discussed orientations and measures aimed at expanding bilateral relations in the economic, trade, scientific-technical, and other fields in the days ahead.

His Excellency Yi Sang-ok informed the Vietnamese side of his country's plan to expand technical cooperation with and grant non-refund aid to Vietnam. He said his government is considering the possibility of granting Vietnam loans with preferential terms or through the ROK Export-Import Bank.

The two sides agreed to establish a Joint Intergovernmental Economic Commission. They initialed an Agreement on Economic-Technical Cooperation, and agreed to sign, at an early date, this agreement and other agreements on trade, investment protection, avoidance of double taxation, and aviation and maritime transportation.

The two ministers contended that this visit to Vietnam by ROK Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and results of the talks will help strengthen the mutual understanding, friendly relations, and cooperation between the SRV and ROK for the interests of the two peoples and for peace, stability, and development in the region and the rest of the world.

Minister Yi Sang-ok invited Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam to pay an official visit to the ROK. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

On the same day, Minister Yi Sang-ok and his entourage laid a wreath at President Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and visited his home and office. The ROK Foreign Minister also attended the ceremony to install the plaque of the ROK Embassy in Hanoi.

In the evening of 22 December, Minister Yi Sang-ok held a reception to thank the Vietnamese side. Attending the function were SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and other high-ranking officials of the Foreign Ministry and agencies concerned.

Trade, Other Agreements Signed

BK2212153192 Hanoi VNA in English 1446 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 22—Talks were held here this morning between Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and his R.O.K. counterpart Yi Sang-ok.

During the talks, the ROK foreign minister made known his country's plan to broaden technical cooperation with Vietnam and to grant non-refund aid to Vietnam. He said his government is considering the possibility of granting Vietnam loans with preferential terms or through ROK's export and import banks. The two sides agreed to set up a joint intergovernmental economic commission. They initialed an agreement on economic and technical cooperation, and agreed to sign at an early date this agreement and other agreements such as on trade, investment guarantee, avoidance of double taxation, aviation and maritime transportation.... They unanimously noted that this visit of Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok and the results of the talks would help strengthen mutual understanding and the relations of cooperation between Vietnam and ROK, which are beneficial to the Vietnamese and ROK people, and to peace, stability and development in the region and the rest of the world.

Mr. Yi Sang-ok invited Mr. Nguyen Manh Cam to pay a visit to ROK. The invitation was accepted with pleasure.

Vo Van Kiet To Visit Seoul 'Soon'

SK2312014092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0128 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi, Dec. 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet agreed Tuesday to visit South Korea soon as part of an exchange of government leaders between the two countries.

He also agreed to Korean participation in developing Vietnam's oil and natural gas reserves, and in building infrastructure. On Tuesday, Seoul and Hanoi restored relations severed in 1975, when Vietnam was communized.

After diplomatic normalization, Vo Van Kiet met with Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ock and they exchanged opinions on how to improve bilateral ties and strengthen cooperation, Kim Sok-u, the Foreign Ministry's director-general for Asian affairs, said after the meeting.

Yi and Vo Van Kiet agreed the two countries need to exchange visits of government leaders. Yi invited Vo Van Kiet to visit Seoul soon and the prime minister accepted, Kim said.

Yi met earlier with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and talked about Korean participation in developing Vietnam's natural resources and constructing roads, railway and ports.

They also discussed Hanoi's entry in next year's Taejon Expo in South Korea and early conclusion of investment guarantee and other economic pacts, Kim said.

Yi was to meet President Le Duc Anh before leaving Wednesday.

The South Korean liaison office in Hanoi was upgraded to an embassy after diplomatic normalization. Seoul plans to open a consulate-general in Ho Chi Minh City and is negotiating the return of the old South Korean Embassy site there.

Korean Petroleum Development Corporation Opens Office

BK2112061992 Hanoi VNA in English 0600 GMT 21 Dec 92

[All Korean names as received]

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 21—The Korea Petroleum Development Corporation (Pedco), on Monday opened its operating office at 7 K Ben Chuong, Ho Chi Minh City.

Pedco President Kak Chong-yu who came expressly for the opening ceremony said: 'Petroleum exploration will accelerate economic development in Vietnam'.

He said Pedco Vietnam office was to carry out petroleum operation for block 11-2 offshore Vietnam. The block has been awarded to a consortium consisting of Pedco and seven business conglomerate (Daesung, Daewoo, Hyundai, Lucky Goldstar, Samhwan, Samsung and Ssangyong).

According to Mr. Ki Pong-cho, executive director of Pedco Vietnam office, Pedco as operator has complete seismic acquisition of 5,455 line kms since the signing of a production sharing contract with Petro Vietnam early this year. Mr. Cho said Pedco was now interpreting new seismic data to define the best prospects in block 11-2. He said Pedco was planning to drill two exploratory wells in late 1993 and would invest in Vietnam more than 50 million US dollars for the first phase (3 years) of the exploration period.

Reportage on National Assembly Second Session

Deputies Criticize Biased Judges

BK1912100692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0228 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi, Dec 19 (AFP)—Vietnamese deputies have criticized government proposals to strengthen anti-corruption laws, saying the real problem is that current laws are not being enforced, official press reports said Wednesday.

They called for an end to the notorious "umbrella" system where corrupt officials are protected by higher-ranking friends, and said the court system should be rid of biased judges, the daily NHAN DAN said.

"Corrupt officials and smugglers have to answer to the courts, which thus have to answer to the people, for the corruption situation which is becoming a national catastrophe," an unnamed deputy was quoted as saying.

The National Assembly was preparing to vote on proposals to create special courts to try corruption cases and to strenghten penalties for corruption, including life sentences for serious offenses.

The proposals have been received skeptically by a public aware that despite a much-publicized anti-corruption campaign, only a small percentage of cases have actually gone to court.

Of officials tried and convicted of corruption, 70 percent have received suspended sentences, National Assembly officials say.

In other debate, the assembly balked at two of the 10 proposed amendments to Vietnam's foreign investment law, including a proposal to give fully foreign-owned companies the same tax breaks as joint ventures.

The assembly's lawyers also criticized a plan to encourage foreign interests to embark on infrastructure projects on a build-operate-transfer basis, the semi-official weekly VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW reported.

But the other eight measures looked set for passage, including a proposal to lengthen the standard land lease for foreign-invested companies from 20 to 50 years in a bid to encourage long-term, large-scale projects.

21 Dec Proceedings

BK2212145992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Report by Ngoc Ky on 21 December proceedings of the Ninth National Assembly Second Session]

[Summary] "Dear friends, today is the 11th working day of the Ninth National Assembly Second Session. The National Assembly held a plenary meeting at the conference hall under the direction of National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu.

"During the morning session, Comrade Nguyen Dinh Loc, minister of justice, delivered a report on the compilation of the National Assembly deputies' opinions and a revision of the draft bill on amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Criminal Code and the Law on Criminal Procedure.

"Regarding the amendment and supplement to the Criminal Code, the report said that the draft bill suggests to amend and supplement 23 articles, three of them dealing with the generalities section and the remaining 20 articles dealing with criminal-related issues."

During the debate, many points of the draft bill were supported by a majority of the deputies. These are points dealing with fines applied to corruption offenses, confiscation of money directly involved with these offenses, and amendments to supplementary penalties imposed on some crimes such as smuggling, negligence that results in serious damage to socialist property, production and trading of counterfeit goods, tax evasion, and so forth. The deputies also agreed to increase penalties for offenses involving cheating, misappropriating socialist property, abuse of power, and bribery. The deputies held different views on the application of suspended execution of sentences on penalties for negligence and for damaging socialist property.

The deputies also discussed and approved Article 44 dealing with the suspended execution of sentences and Article 174 dealing with penalties imposed on deliberated violations to state rules and regulations.

Regarding the supplement and amendment to some articles of the Law on Criminal Procedure, deputies extensively discussed regulations on establishing the first and second instance courts and Article 43 dealing with witnesses for the prosecution. Concerning the part dealing with the detention of offenders after the court has announced its verdict, deputies suggested that this part is intact.

"Dear friends, this afternoon, the National Assembly continued its work at the Conference Hall. The National Assembly heard Comrade Dau Ngoc Xuan, chairman of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment, report on the compilation of deputies' ideas on the draft bill to amend some articles of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam.

"Comrade Nguyen Van Hieu, on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, read the text of the draft bill on supplementing and amending some articles of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam. Afterward, National Assembly deputies further discussed some articles of the draft bill and voted to approve it."

Dear friends, tomorrow the National Assembly will approve three draft bills on supplementing and amending the Criminal Code, the Law on Criminal Procudure, and the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam.

22 Dec Proceedings

BK2212133692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Today is the 12th work day of the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session. The National Assembly held a plenary meeting at the conference hall in Hanoi. [passage indistinct]

Comrade Nguyen Van Yeu, on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, read a draft plan on the 1993 legislative work of the National Assembly.

National Assembly deputies discussed, contributed ideas, and voted to approve this draft plan.

Tomorrow, the National Assembly will continue its work at the conference hall to approve the draft bill on supplementing and amending some articles of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam.

The Ninth National Assembly's Second Session will be closed tomorrow, 23 December.

Communique No 10

BK2212155392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Dec 92

["Communique No. 10 of the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session"]

[Text] On 22 December, the Ninth National Assembly held a plenary meeting at the Conference Hall in Hanoi. At the morning session, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh delivered a greetings speech to cadres and combatants of the Vietnam Armed Forces on the occasion of the Vietnam People's Army's 48th founding anniversary.

Afterward, Comrade Phung Van Tuu, vice chairman of the National Assembly, directed the plenary meeting.

After listening to Comrade Nguyen Van Yeu, on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, read the text of the revised draft bills on amending and supplementing some articles of the Criminal Code and the Law on Criminal Procedures on the basis of the ideas contributed by the deputies, the National Assembly voted to approve these two draft bills.

At the afternoon session, the National Assembly heard Comrade Vu Mao, chief of the National Assembly Secretariat, report on the compilation of the deputies' ideas on the draft resolution on the 1993 legislative work of the National Assembly. Afterward, the National Assembly discussed and voted to approve this resolution.

23 Dec Proceedings

BK2312082492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] This morning the Ninth National Assembly's Second Session held a plenary meeting under the chairmanship of Comrade Phung Van Tuu, vice chairman of the National Assembly.

The National Assembly heard Comrade Nguyen Van Yeu, on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, read the text of the draft bill on supplementing and amending some articles of the Law on Foreign Investment in Vietnam. Afterward, National Assembly deputies discussed and voted to approve this draft bill.

This afternoon, the Ninth National Assembly will hold a closing session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall in Hanoi.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Thai Ex-Premier

BK2012072292 Hanoi VNA in English 0620 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA December 19 [date as received]—Prime Minsister Vo Van Kiet received at the Presidential Palace here this afternoon ex-Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and the delegation of businessmen in his company.

Present at the reception were Dau Ngsoc Xuan, minister and head of the State Committee for Cooperation and Investment and Le Mai, deputy foreign minister.

Vo Van Kiet praised the ex-prime minister's contributions in his capacity as head of a great Government of Thailand to peace, friendship, stability, and cooperation in the region and in the indochinsese peninsula, notably for his famous watchwords 'let's transform indochina from a battlefield into a market'. This not only had a great commercial significance but more importantly still, it has strengthened the friendship, cooperation, mutual understanding and trust between Thai people and the indochinese peoples.

In his reply, the ex-prime minister said that the opportunity has come for Thailand and Vietnam to develop economic and commercial ties and that Thai businessmen are ready to invest in Vietnam. He recalled his [word oindistinct] to ask the Japanese Government to cooperate in establishing a fund for the development of Indochina. He said the Japanese prime minister has approved this which if implemented will create more favourable conditions and opportunities for foreigners to invest in Vietnam in the form of capital loans or investment guarantees.

Thailand's Chatchai Proposes Transport Link

BK2112011592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Dec 92 p 1

[By Suphaphon Kanwirayothin]

[Text] Former Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan yesterday proposed the Indochina Development Fund finance a transport and development link between Thailand and Vietnam via Laos.

Gen Chatchai, who said he wanted to turn the battlefields of Indochina into a bustling marketplace during his premiership, arrived here on Saturday to hold talks with Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

According to Kraisak Chunhawan, Gen Chatchai's son and adviser, Prime Minister Kiet has assigned his Foreign Ministry to form a committee to study Gen Chatchai's Indochina Development Fund concept, and to pursue this with the Japanese Foreign Ministry which contributes to the fund.

If the concept materialises, the Indochina Development Fund (which has about US$2 billion) will finance the construction of a bridge linking Mukdahan Province in northeastern Thailand with Savannakhet province in Laos, and which will then hook up with Vietnam's Danang province.

The Vietnamese premier reportedly welcomed this idea of a "triangular relationship" between Japan, Thailand and Indochina.

Asked about the prospects of securing the fund to implement the concept, Mr Kraisak said this proposal was "positively received" by Japanese leaders and members of the private sector with whom Gen Chatchai met during his visit to Japan prior to the general elections in May.

Japan agreed to the Indochina Development Fund (IDF) concept but said it wanted the three Indochinese countries to endorse the idea first, he added.

After Vietnam, Gen Chatchai will travel to Laos to present this proposal.

The process now is to get the countries involved—Vietnam and Laos—to endorse the idea, and then secure the funding from Japan, he said.

Gen Chatchai, who now leads the Chat Phatthana Party, came here as the guest of Vietnam's State Committee for Cooperation and Investment. He will also travel to Danang and Ho Chi Minh City.

The objective of this trip, said Mr Kraisak, is to push for a project which will symbolise durable peace in the region, and the Mukdahan-Savannakhet-Danang link presents good prospects for regional development in the future.

Prime Minister Kiet, at one point of Saturday's two-hour discussion with Gen Chatchai, proposed that the road linking all three countries be called "Peace Road" because it will benefit not only Laos and Vietnam but also northern Cambodia.

Gen Chatchai told the Vietnamese premier that the only difficulty is that he is not in the Government, and was only speaking as a parliamentarian who enjoys the support of interested Thai investors.

This route link, which the UN's Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific has proposed for a very long time, will also create opportunities for other development projects such as oil-and-gas purchases from Vietnam in exchange for electricity generation in Thailand, Mr Kraisak said.

Textile Trade Agreement Signed With EC

BK1912062892 Hanoi VNA in English 0541 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 19—An agreement was initialed in Brussels on Tuesday providing for trade in textiles between Vietnam and the EC from next year until 1997.

The agreement, signed for Vietnam by Ambassador Dinh Phu Dinh, will take effect from January 1, said the press department of the Foreign Ministry in Hanoi in a statement issued on Friday.

Ministry Says Trade Balance Continues To Improve

BK2012070692 Hanoi VNA in English 0141 GMT 20 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 20—According to the Ministry of Trade, the value of commercial exports in 1992 reached 2.455 billion US dollars, tens of billions of dollars more than the value of commercial imports.

However, Minister Le Van Triet said in an interview with NHAN DAN, this does not mean that we have got a trade surplus, taking into consideration the fact that the value of exports also include debt payments and that exports and imports across the border include not a small quantity of smuggled goods.

On the other hand, he said, it should be recalled that in the early eighties, Vietnam's exports represented only one quater of imports. In 1988-1989, the ratio was still 1 to 1.7 and in 1991 export value stood at 2,087 million US dollars compared to 2,274 million US dollars.

In 1992, the export of eight among the twelve most important items has exceeded the targets. They are crude oil, rice, aquatic products, rubber, coffeee, tin, ready-made clothes and cinnamon. In particular, rice export achieved 157.6 percent of the plan, up by 80.1 percent compared with 1991, crude oil reached 108 percent of the plan and aquatic products reached 104.5 percent of the plan, up by 5.8 percent compared to 1991. In our import structure, the volume of strategic goods has increased substantially: oil and petrol up by 19 percent compared to 1991, steel and iron up by 129.6 percent. The import of chemicals, pesticides, raw materials and car tyres was higher than planned.

Le Van Triet went on:

'The foreign-trade records in 1992 are the results of three years of strenuous efforts to find new or substitute outlets in Europe and Asia. While in 1991 we grossed 77 million convertible roubles from the East European market, this year the figure dropped to less than 25 million roubles. Yet, total export value has increased.

'On the road toward renovation, we are still faced with many difficultias and obstacles (including the US economic embargo). But if we can have better [word indistinct] on the organization of the trade service and goods production to increase the quality of export goods, if we adopt a more reasonable tax policy to encourage the production of export goods and foreign trade activies together with a rational policy to protect domestic products, and if we continue to open wide our arms to foreign businessmen, we will certainly succeed in securing a firm foothold for our key export goods and increase export value. This will help us gradually catch up with neighbouring countries in terms of foreign exchange reserve and capital accumulation for our development programs'.

Papers Editorialize 48th Army Day

BK2212075192 Hanoi VNA in English 0713 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 22—The dailies NHAN DAN and QUAN DOI NHAN DAN today carry editorials marking the 48th Army Day (Dec. 22).

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN writes the complicated changes in the world situations during the past years togethers with the acute difficulties in shifting the economy have directly influenced security and socioeconomic life in the country. These require that our people and army further enhance vigilance and better realise the important role of defense, task in order to give more attention to the building of the army and consolidation of national defence by government decision since 1989, the founding day of the Vietnamese People's Army has become the All-People Defence day. This decision reflects our party and government's great concern about the task of building the army and consolidating the national defence considering it a task of the entire party and people'.

For its part, NHAN DAN writes that as a strong national defence requires a strong army to serve as the core force.

In line with the renovation policy of the party, 'We are determined to build a strong people's national defence, a powerful people's armed force endowed with an increasing might, integrated strength and fighting capacity, prepared to cope with all eventualities and successfully carry out both strategic tasks i.e. national construction and national defence'.

Meetings were held yesterday in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to celebrate the army day.

Prime Minister Receives Cuban Trade Delegation

BK2212151992 Hanoi VNA in English 1436 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 22—"The Vietnamese Government and people have followed with keen interest the latest developments in Cuba and sympathised with the Cuban people in their adversities", said Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet while receiving Cuban Minister of Foreign Trade Ricardo Cabrisas this morning.

The Vietnamese leader said: "Vietnam will give priority to Cuba in its import policy, and will import from Cuba what it has little demand for but can be re-exported. Vietnam is ready within its capacity to respond to Cuba's request". In difficult times like these, Cuba and Vietnam need to unite and help each other more than ever. Vietnam will do its best to consolidate and strengthen the solidarity and friendship, and step up the brotherly cooperation between the two countries in the interests of socialist construction in each country, and for peace, friendship and development in the world".

Belarus Supreme Soviet Chairman Receives Envoy

BK2312065792 Hanoi VNA in English 0555 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 23—Stanislav Shushkevich, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus, on December 17 received Vietnamese Ambassador to Belarus Ho Huan Nghiem.

Ambassador Ho Huan Nghiem conveyed regards from Vietnamese state leaders to the Belarus president and briefed him about the Vietnamese people's achievements in the renovation process and affirmed the Vietnamese Government and people's earnest desire to strengthen their friendly and cooperative relations with the Republic of Belarus.

Chairman Shuskevich highly valued the great achivements recorded by the Vietnamese people in the renovation policy and hailed Vietnam's foreign policy [word indistinct] operation and affirmed that Belarus is very keen on strengthening its friendly and cooperation relations with Vietnam and broadening the traditional relations between the two countries in all fields.

On [words indistinct] Ambassador Ho Huanh Nghiem also met with Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers N.N. Kotikov, leader of the Commission for External Economy V.V. Radkevich, Minister of Labour and Social Insurance [name indistinct] and Deputy Foreign Minister A.M. Sychov.

Minister of Finance Holds News Conference

BK2312072592 Hanoi VNA in English 0622 GMT 23 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 23—The price index in 1992 increased only by 15-16 percent, or a monthly average of 1.25 percent compared with 67.7 percent and 4.4 percent respectively in 1991.

This was reported at a press conference called here yesterday by Finance Minister Ho Te to review the finance and budget situation in 1992 and the plan for 1993.

The minister also pointed to a number of shortcomings in financial-budget management such as poor performance in production and business of many state-owned enterprises, incomplete declaration of fixed capital and inadequate deduction of amortization cost, wasteful spending, lack of strictness in the execution of taxation and the ordinance on taxes, low capital mobilization among the people to meet capital demand of the government budget and too meagre results in the fight against inflation, slowness in the formation of capital and monetary markets etc.

According to Minister Ho Te, the 1993 budget will focus on the following objectives: investing in capital construction both to meet the immediate needs and to lay the basis for promoting economic growth, creating more jobs as a premise to increase revenue sources for the government budget in the years to come, basic completion of the salary reforms asssuring reasonable spending on national defence and security, more appropriations for education, healthcare, culture and social wslfare, more efforts to pay debts inside and outside the country to create conditions for normalizing relations with other countries and international organizsations and broadening financial relations with the outside world.

To achieve the above objectives, the tasks set for 1993 are to actively exploit the revenue sources in the country on the basis of increased production and full statutory collection of taxes and fees which are expected to make up 16.5 percent of GDP, in which taxes would make up 14.5 percent.

Economic Potential Interests Tourists' Groups

BK1912065692 Hanoi VNA in English 0548 GMT 19 Dec 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 19—Intercontinental Hotel, a member of the Sepzon Group headquartered in Tokyo, wants to build intercontinental hotels in Vietnam, said the president of Sepzon at a conference of the World Tourist Council (WTTC) for the Pacific region.

The conference has decided to set up groups of enterprises of WTTC member countries to help the tourist industries of Vietnam and China regarded to have fast tempo of economic development upgrade their tourist infrastructures to catch up with the fast economic growth rate.

Intercontinental Hotel has sent its representatives to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to make on-spot inquires into possibilities to build continental hotels in Vietnam.

Australia

Keating Unveils Government Plan for Environment

BK2112071692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] Australia's Prime Minister Paul Keating has unveiled a major statement on the environment, committing his government to spending $150 million over the next four years. Mark Tamhane reports the major theme of the statement is a renewed effort to protect Australia's rivers.

[Begin Tamhane recording] The centerpiece of the statement is a commitment to clean up the Murray-Darling, Australia's largest river system, which has become increasingly polluted and choked with a toxic blue-green algae. Nearly half the money will be spent on improving water catchments, treating sewerage, monitoring water quality, and protecting wild rivers.

On the international stage the government will ratify conventions on biodiversity and climate change, arising from this year's Earth Summit, while a cave system in South Australia and fossil site in Queensland will be nominated for the World Heritage listing.

The importation of high-level radioactive waste will be banned and new studies will examine the impact of tourism on the environment. Money will also be allocated to a number of other conservation and recycling initiatives.

The nation's leading environment group, the Australian Conservation Foundation, has welcomed the prime minister's initiative, but says the government must do more. [end recording]

Tri-Partite New Disaster Relief Pact Signed

BK2212071292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Australia, New Zealand, and France have pledged more cooperation in disaster relief in the South Pacific. A new pact was signed by the three nations today in the New Zealand capital, Wellington, just in time for the South Pacific cyclone season. The agreement provides for information sharing and closer cooperation in response to future disasters in the South Pacific in an effort to avoid duplication of relief efforts.

Government Tells Israeli Envoy of 'Deep Concern'

BK2212104492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0748 GMT 22 Dec 92

[Text] Canberra, Dec 22 (AFP)—Israel's charge d'affaires David Goren was called into the Department of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday and told of Australia's "deep concern" over the deportation of 415 Palestinians from the occupied territories.

Australian officials told Goren the government condemned the action, which was contrary to the Fourth Geneva Convention and threatened to disrupt the Middle East peace process, a department statement said.

Goren was told Australia was urging Israel to abide by the United Nations Security Council resolution, which demanded that Israel "ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those deported."

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans issued a statement last Friday deploring the deportations.

Israel ordered their expulsion last week from the West Bank and Gaza Strip after fundamentalists in the HAMAS movement killed five Israeli soldiers, including one who had been kidnapped.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said he felt "no pity" for the 415 men his government expelled to southern Lebanon from the occupied territories, as the unarmed deportees came under mortar attack Monday when they tried to march back into Israeli-held territory.

Three of the Palestinians, Islamic fundamentalists from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, were wounded after the Lebanese army ordered them out of a makeshift camp in southern Lebanon and told them to head for an Israeli-imposed "security zone" along the border.

The Palestinians have been stranded in a no-man's land between the Israeli security zone and a Lebanese army checkpoint further north since early Friday.

Papua New Guinea

Wingti Supports New Commander in Military Shakeup

BK2112084892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 21 Dec 92

[Text] The new commander of the Papua New Guinea [PNG] defense force has won support of the Wingti government for a thorough shakeup among senior officers. Sean Dorney reports that Brigadier General Robert (Dademo) has overcome opposition from his own minister to have cabinet-approve appointments and transfers that remove a number of his former rivals from key posts. Dorney says that two weeks ago it seemed Brig. Gen. (Dademo) had been turned into a commander without real power when his proposals to reshape the force were rejected by Defense Minister Paul Pora [title as heard]. But Prime Minister Wingti has now backed him. Four new colonels have been appointed and three existing ones have been posted overseas as defense attaches.